



## WVU President Michael Benson visits WVU Medicine Jackson General Hospital, discusses plans for future

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RIPLEY, W.Va. — West Virginia University President Michael Benson visited with administration and staff at WVU Medicine Jackson General Hospital Wednesday.

Introduced by Candace Miller, president and CEO of WVU Medicine Jackson General Hospital, Benson, the new and 27th president of West Virginia University, toured the facility and discussed plans for the university and WVU Medicine. As president of the university, Benson serves as the chairman of WVU Medicine's Board of Directors.

Born in Utah, but having grown up in Texas, Benson said he has traveled to many places for his career, including Utah, Kentucky, South Carolina and now West Virginia.

"I was very happy in Coastal Carolina," he said. "But this was a chance to lead a par one flagship, division one athletic program at the highest level, and I couldn't turn it down."

His vision for WVU is to focus on expanding enrollment, strengthening statewide partnerships, supporting rural communities and elevating WVU's role as a R1 research institute.

As part of his presidency, Benson will be traveling around the state hoping to meet people in all 55 counties.

Miller welcomed Benson to WVU Medicine Jackson General Hospital (JGH) and discussed some of the needs of the facility.

"You have an unbelievable leadership team," Benson said. "This is the crown jewel of the university, and I am here to help. I know how important this facility is to the county and the community, so what can we do?"

Miller said they are open to any type of collaboration, as there is a need for wellness across the state.

"We need to know how we can help by bringing more wellness activities to the community," Miller said. "If we here at Jackson General Hospital can ever help with something at the university, we are more than willing to help as well. We are open to research."



*Candace Miller, president and CEO of WVU Medicine Jackson General Hospital, welcomes West Virginia University President Michael Benson to Jackson County with a tour of the hospital.*

According to Miller, WVU Medicine JGH is always looking for ways to expand their services.

“Our mission here is to provide a service as good or better than the Mayo or Cleveland Clinic,” Miller said. “You’re going to get the best of the best, right here in Ripley, West Virginia — that’s our promise.”

Benson said he is looking forward to the partnership and his new journey in West Virginia.