Cookeville Regional Medical Center

In 2012, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) formalized its affiliation with Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC). The affiliation agreement creates significant opportunities for both parties to work together to expand the scope of health care services in Putnam County and the Upper Cumberland Region, including the creation of joint centers of excellence, educational programs, and clinical research collaborations; engaging in the development of new information technology tools; and collaborating on a broad range of clinical services including trauma care, neurology and neuro-intervention, rheumatology, pediatrics, neonatology, and other highly specialized fields of medicine.

NorthCrest Medical Center

In 2012, the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center opened a new cancer outpatient clinic on the NorthCrest Medical Center campus in Springfield, Tennessee, to bring high-quality care to patients in Middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky. Vanderbilt physicians, who are specialists in medical oncology and hematology, currently see patients in the new facility. The opening of this clinic means patients have access to the expertise of a National Cancer Institute designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in Springfield.

Also at the NorthCrest Medical Center is a Vanderbilt Center for Women’s Health where women are able to meet with world-class doctors for issues ranging from annual examinations and pregnancy care to advanced laparoscopy and minimally invasive surgery, as well as gynecologic oncology, high-risk obstetrics, and maternal transport service.

Finally, NorthCrest is home to a Vanderbilt Spine Center that treats patients for back pain, sciatica, whiplash, and other conditions. The Spine Center offers a full range of treatments including non-surgical choices.

*The Pathfinder Hotline is a statewide multi-language help line that connects the Tennessee disability community with service providers and information*
“It is an ideal setting for an outreach activity… Generally, students who live in sparsely populated counties with fewer public schools aren’t exposed enough to the fun of engineering design.”

—A. V. Anilkumar, professor of the practice of mechanical engineering and Vanderbilt Aerospace Club adviser

TN-SCORE Outreach Initiatives

In October 2010, Tennessee was one of seven states selected by the National Science Foundation to receive an EPSCoR Award, totaling $20 million over five years. This is one of the largest federal science grants ever awarded to the state. The collaboration, known as Tennessee Solar Conversion and Storage Using Outreach, Research and Education (TN-SCORE), draws upon the state’s expanding energy industry and brings together researchers from Tennessee universities and Oak Ridge National Laboratory to boost energy-related research and education across the state. The Vanderbilt Institute of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (VINSE) is playing a key role by conducting research and training undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty from across the state.

With the support of TN-SCORE, VINSE is leading an effort to bring STEM education to students in grades 5–12. In 2013, students from Central High School, Mt. Juliet High School, White House Heritage Elementary School, East Robertson High School, Greenbrier High School, and Coopertown Middle School benefited from field trips to tour VINSE facilities, classroom demonstrations, and teacher trainings.

Vanderbilt Aerospace Club

In late October, members of the Vanderbilt Aerospace Club spent a Friday at the Celina K-8 School in Clay County, Tennessee. They split teaching duties among fifth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade science classes, using frictionless fan carts and plastic soda bottle rockets to teach Newton’s laws of motion, to help explain rocket design, and to spark an interest in rocketry and engineering. The trip to Celina is part of an award-winning comprehensive educational outreach program the Aerospace Club designed and has offered to select underserved middle schools. The club’s primary activity is participating in NASA’s annual Student Launch (SL) competition, which involves building a high-powered 10-foot rocket, equipping it with several onboard science payloads, and designing it so it flies as close as possible to one mile in altitude and then parachutes safely back to earth. In 2012, the club won NASA’s Educational Engagement Award for its efforts to inspire young students in the study of rocketry and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related topics.