

---

## CONFLUENCE HEALTH BREAKS GROUND ON NEW RADIATION TREATMENT CENTER IN MOSES LAKE

**Moses Lake, WA:** After board approval earlier this month, Confluence Health broke ground yesterday on a state-of-the-art radiation treatment facility in Moses Lake to increase access and treatment options for residents of the Columbia Basin. A top priority that has been in the works for several years, the groundbreaking on the \$14.5 million facility represents a triumph for Moses Lake and for cancer patients in the region.

To celebrate the project start, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on the site. Dr. Tom Carlson and Dr. Julie Smith, who both work in cancer care, spoke on the importance of the facility to the residents of the Columbia Basin and how it represents a fulfillment of a dream long held by residents who supported fundraising efforts by the Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation in partnership with the Confluence Health Foundation. Angel Ledesma, executive director of the Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation, expressed her gratitude to the donors and those who believed in the project, which included state legislators who advocated for a state grant, including Senator Judy Warnick, Representative Mike Steele, and Representative Alex Ybarra. In addition, Confluence Health CEO, Dr. Andrew Jones, also spoke about what this facility will mean for the future.

“It is fitting that we meet here today in what is essentially a vacant field since it helps us to imagine the art of the possible. To the untrained eye, this looks like some dust, maybe a weed here and there,” remarked Jones. “To me, and to all of us at Confluence Health, it represents the possibility and potential to create better care for our patients and opportunities for people in the region.”

“And that’s what makes me so excited about the future. Because this is just the beginning,” continued Jones in his remarks. “Today we celebrate a community’s vision for the future and care for their neighbors. We have much more to do to keep bringing even more visions and hopes to fruition. I have great hope for the future and, when we pull together and work for the betterment of our communities, I know that these hopes can become a reality.”

A community-focused event, music was provided by the Moses Lake High School Jazz Combo under the direction of band directors Pablo Hernandez and Ume Lindemeier. The five-member student group, made up of a keyboardist, bass player, drummer, and two saxophonists, supplied the event with some light jazz during the event’s close as attendees met and discussed the project, and as the shovels came out for the groundbreaking.

While construction is getting underway soon, Confluence Health hopes that the first patients can begin to use the new facility in late summer 2023. It is conservatively estimated that the treatment center will serve around 300 patients in its first year, and this number is expected to grow.

“This is a facility that will help and benefit the entire community by providing state-of-the-art care closer to home to allow patients to get the best treatment possible, without having to leave behind loved ones to make lengthy stays or drives,” remarked Gregg Fletcher, director of Grant County for Confluence Health, after holding a moment of silence to remember those lost to cancer. “This is a community resource that the community themselves came together to see come to fruition, and Confluence Health is tremendously proud to be a part of making that happen.”

### About Confluence Health

Confluence Health serves the largest geographic region of any healthcare system in Washington State, covering over

12,000 square miles of Okanogan, Grant, Douglas, and Chelan counties. Confluence is one of only two locally-lead healthcare systems in the state with the purpose of maintaining availability and access to high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services for North Central Washington. The Confluence Health Board of Directors provides governance for Confluence Health, the Clinic, Central Washington Hospital, and Wenatchee Valley Hospital, and includes nine community board members and six physician board members.

**For More Information**

Katie Grove, *Marketing & Communications Director*

[katharine.grove@ConfluenceHealth.org](mailto:katharine.grove@ConfluenceHealth.org)

509-885-0444

Adam MacDonald, *Corporate Communications Program Manager*

[adam.macdonald@ConfluenceHealth.org](mailto:adam.macdonald@ConfluenceHealth.org)

###