

A New Chiropractic Degree Program?

Editorial Staff

The newly formed Chrysalis Institute of Health and Wellness in Kansas City, Mo., will offer a doctor of chiropractic degree and a master's of public health education degree beginning in fall 2006, according to an official press release from the nonprofit organization. The Chrysalis wellness philosophy is based on four basic tenets: "good nutrition, regular physical activity, good mental health, and regular chiropractic care." The chief executive officer of the institute is Gerald Jensen, a former administrator at Cleveland Chiropractic College-Kansas City. Jensen's educational background also includes previous service as vice chancellor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

The Chrysalis Web site (www.chrysalisinstitute.org) describes the core curriculum of the doctor of chiropractic degree as "research based":

Students will be taught the process of ... finding, appraising, and using contemporaneous research findings as the basis for clinical decisions. In the chiropractic setting, evidenced-based chiropractic (EBC) is the process of asking questions, finding and appraising relevant data, and using that information in everyday practice. There are at least 4 steps associated with that process:

- create a focused clinical question regarding a patient's problem
- search the medical and chiropractic literature for relevant clinical articles
- critically review the evidence for its validity and usefulness
- apply the findings in a chiropractic practice

The institute recently announced its governing board of trustees. The board features a number of distinguished educational leaders, including Dr. George Russell, former president of the University of Missouri System; Dr. Eleanor Schwartz, former chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City; Dr. Helen Washburn, former president of Cottey College (in Nevada, Mo.); and Ted Ayres, vice president and general counsel at Wichita State University.

In addition to the chiropractic and public-health degree programs, the institute will also offer a wellness center, which will begin seeing patients in early 2006. Chrysalis hopes to reproduce this model throughout the United States, beginning in Kansas City, which will serve as the organization's headquarters.

Resources

1. Distinguished leaders back new institute. Chrysalis Institute press release, June 2005.
2. Institute is planning chiropractic degrees. *The Kansas City Star* (KansasCity.com), June 10, 2005.

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