

Spectrum of Care

—by Kara Rhodes—

The region's two leading hospitals call Erie home. **Hamot Medical Center** and **Saint Vincent Health Center** are the second- and third-largest employers in Erie County — making them a vital part of the community. Combined, the competing hospitals employ nearly 5,000.

Both are aggressively expanding, continuing to cement their roles as leaders for quality medical care in the region.

Hamot has invested \$110 million since 2000 on new equipment, expansions, and renovations. It has plans to spend another \$65 million through 2010. Named for the Frenchman who settled in Erie in 1805, Hamot celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2006. The year was also highlighted by the hospital's inclusion on a *U.S. News & World Report*

list of America's Best Hospitals for heart and heart surgery.

Saint Vincent, founded in 1875 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, has launched a 10-year expansion project that includes \$28.2 million in projects in the first phase and was ranked as one of the best places to work in Pennsylvania in 2006.

The two facilities are complemented by a wide range of hospitals and care centers throughout the region. Those include **Veterans Affairs Medical Center, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Erie, Shriners Hospital for Children, Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Corry Memorial Hospital, Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Na-**



Andrea Goins, a student at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, prepares a patient for examination at Millcreek Community Hospital.

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tional Institute, and Millcreek Community Hospital.

Also an important part of the health care landscape: **Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine**, an upstart school that, in just 14 years, has become one of the largest and most progressive medical schools in the nation. It started in 1993 with 37 students and now has 1,865 students in Erie and at its branch campus in Bradenton, Florida.

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