

**Lighthouse Central Florida**  
**Visionary Award Presentation**  
Deborah C. German, M.D., Award Recipient  
Dean, College of Medicine  
University of Central Florida  
September 12, 2009

Introduction by Jerry Hilbrich, Chairman  
Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation

Good evening everyone, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors and staff of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation – many of whom are with us tonight, I encourage you to take a moment to consider how fortunate we all are to live here in Orlando, and if our families, friends or neighbors needed vision services, that Lighthouse Central Florida is here to serve those needs. Lighthouse Central Florida is the only private nonprofit organization doing this work in Central Florida. The human and economic toll of vision loss, through diabetes; age-related macular degeneration and glaucoma; or other disease would be unbearable, without Lighthouse. The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation has long been a supporter of Lighthouse and we have found them to be good stewards of the Foundation's money.

I am honored on behalf of the Foundation to introduce our very special honoree and fellow member of the Board of Directors of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Dr. Deborah German.

Even as a child, Deborah German loved both science and working with people. She liked the thought of applying science to helping people even though one day she might be a teacher or a doctor.

Majoring in chemistry at Boston University, she found she had an affinity and aptitude for scientific research and briefly considered it as a career. However, her childhood ambition to help people ultimately spurred her to Harvard Medical School and the beginning of a meritorious career in medical research and education which has seen her become a leader in her field of rheumatic and genetic diseases.

Deb German was one of the pioneers who helped to expand the numbers and roles of women physicians in the late 1960s and early 1970s. When Deb was attending medical school, about 10 percent of her class was women. Today at the UCF Medical School, women make up more than 50 percent of the Charter class. Deb also had two children at the end of her residency, which was unheard of at the time.

She directed the Duke University gout clinics and served as associate dean of medical education at Duke University Medical School prior to joining the Vanderbilt University faculty in 1988 as associate dean of students. She was named senior associate dean of medical education in 1999, responsible for all medical education programs at Vanderbilt.

Leaving Vanderbilt, she next served as President and Chief Executive Officer at Saint Thomas Hospital in Nashville. She was also Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer for Saint Thomas Health Services. While there, Dr. German led a successful turn around of the hospital and initiated service excellence and quality programs at the hospital that received national recognition. Throughout this time she continued to practice medicine. Dr. German spent a year at the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C. as a Petersdorf Scholar in Residence.

Dr. German was appointed as the Founding Dean, and the only employee, of the College of Medicine at the University of Central Florida in December 2006. Today she leads the development of a full-scale medical school and academic medical center that is part of the Medical City at Lake Nona. In less than two years she has hired over 250 employees and appointed over 900 volunteer faculty, gained preliminary accreditation for the UCF Medical School, raised enough money to provide full four year scholarships for the entire Charter Class, and is overseeing construction of 400,000 square feet of medical school space.

Many communities have recognized Dr. German for her contributions. The city of Nashville honored her as the recipient of the Athena Award and inducted her into the YWCA Academy for Women of Achievement. She is the recipient of the AAMC Women in Medicine Leadership Development Award. Dr. German was named a Local Legend of Medicine in the National Library of Medicine. She is the Orlando Business Journal 2008 recipient of Business Executive of the Year Award. Dr. German was honored as the Orlando Sentinel's Editorial Board Central Floridian of the Year, 2008. Most recently, Dr. German appeared on Orlando Magazine's annual list of the 50 Most Powerful People in Orlando and received the Girl Scouts of Citrus Council's 2009 Woman of Distinction Award.

In her spare time Deb German is the mother of two daughters; takes fitness walks down Park Avenue; and can often be found enjoying our cultural offerings here in Central Florida.

I admire "Deb" as she likes to be called, because as an individual she learned at an early age that you will never work a day in your life, if you do what you are passionate about. I admire Deb as an organizational leader, because the word "impossible" is not found in her vocabulary. As a Community leader and Visionary, I admire Deb because she's enjoys the complexity of building a medical school, educating 21<sup>st</sup> century doctors and putting the Lake Nona "Medical City" on the world map.

And as I briefly mentioned early in my remarks, we liked Deb German so much, we asked her to become the newest member of the Board of Directors of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation...

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my distinct privilege and honor to introduce to you my friend and colleague, Dr. Deborah German.