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Press Release

Public Schools of Robeson County

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Southeastern Health supports Robeson County high school athletes with new concussion evaluation system

Southeastern Health (SeHealth) Foundation presented SeHealth Rehab Services' Athletic Trainer program with a check for \$12,500 to purchase IMPACT, a computerized concussion evaluation system, as well as computer equipment needed for the program such as I-pads and printers.

"We felt that our student athletes deserve the best care possible, and we wanted to go above and beyond the state law to make sure that all our athletes are kept safe and their care managed appropriately," SeHealth Outpatient Rehab Manager Henry Edwards said.

Most of the information currently used to evaluate concussions, such as experiencing headache or dizziness, is subjective in nature.

"This will give our athletic trainers and neurologist some objective data on the athlete who has received a concussion," Edwards added.

Baseline tests are performed on all contact-sport athletes. If they sustain a concussion, the test is re-administered to help determine if the athlete is safe to return to participation. This neurocognitive test provides objective data on how the brain is recovering from the concussion. It can help to objectively evaluate the concussed athlete's post-injury condition and track recovery for safe return to play, thus preventing the cumulative effects of concussion. Neurocognitive testing has been called the

"cornerstone" of proper concussion management by an international panel of sports medicine experts.

Currently six high schools in Robeson County have athletic trainers on-site who are provided by Southeastern Regional Medical Center and the Public Schools of Robeson County. These trainers are on school campuses each afternoon until the last practice or school game to offer preventive care or treat athletic injuries for the players.

“PSRC athletes experience dozens of concussions during the course of a school year. The ImPACT software will offer more protection for our athletes by taking some of the subjectivity out of clearing an athlete to return to participate in a sport. It will not stop athletes from suffering a concussion, but it should prevent Second Impact Syndrome,” said PSRC Athletic Director Jason Suggs.

Robeson County will be the first school district in the area to implement ImPACT testing. Edwards said there are a few colleges and universities as well as NFL teams that utilize the software. High school athletic trainers throughout the county began using the web-based evaluation system during the 2013 football season.

“We know how important it is for our student athletes to be safe and that they not return to sports after a concussion until they are cleared by a physician,” SeHealth Foundation Chair Coble Wilson said.

Southeastern Health Foundation is a separate not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to organize regional community efforts which assist in the growth and development of quality health care provided by Southeastern Health.

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About Southeastern Health

Southeastern Health, a non-profit organization, is a comprehensive health care system, which offers a wide array of health care services through its affiliated divisions. The organization is accredited by The Joint Commission and includes Southeastern Regional Medical Center, a Magnet facility. The medical center is licensed for 452 beds and offers a combination of acute care, intensive care and psychiatric services to more than 16,000 inpatients and 76,000 emergency patients annually.

About Southeastern Health Foundation

Southeastern Health Foundation is a separate not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to organize regional community efforts which assist in the growth and development of quality health care provided by Southeastern Health. The SeHealth Foundation was implemented in 1983 to address the growing needs of Southeastern Health and continues today to provide financial assistance for the growth of programs and services that are offered in our community.