

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Sacred Heart Names New Early Steps Program Manager**

**PENSACOLA, Fla.** — Kimberlee Spencer, PhD, has been named program manager for the Western Panhandle Early Steps Program at Sacred Heart.

Spencer graduated with her bachelor's degree in education at Columbia College in Columbia, Missouri. She then received a master's degree in early childhood education at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and she completed her doctorate in child development at Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas. She has presented at professional meetings such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Air Force Child and Youth Services Webinar Series.

Spencer comes to Pensacola from the University of Georgia in Athens, where she served as clinical assistant professor and child life coordinator, teaching and working with graduate and undergraduate students pursuing careers as certified child life specialists. Throughout her career, she has also served as an assistant professor and campus child development center director at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, and as the director of child and youth programs at Naval Air Station Fort Worth in Texas.

Early Steps is the state of Florida's early intervention system that offers services to eligible infants and toddlers, under three years of age, with significant delays or a condition likely to result in a developmental delay. Early intervention is provided to support families and caregivers in developing the competence and confidence to help their child learn and develop. For information about Early Steps, please call 850-416-7656 or visit [earlystepsatsacredheart.org](http://earlystepsatsacredheart.org).

The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart is a 117-bed facility that serves as the only children's hospital in Northwest Florida. The Children's Hospital offers a wide range of services to meet all of a child's medical needs, from a pediatric emergency room and neonatal intensive care unit to a medical staff of more than 120 board-certified physicians across 30 pediatric specialties. The Children's Hospital provides quality, compassionate care to children, regardless of their parents' ability to pay. Sacred Heart Health System is a member of Ascension, the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system. For more information about the services available at The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart, visit [studerfamilychildrenshospital.com](http://studerfamilychildrenshospital.com).

### **About Sacred Heart Health System**

In Florida, Ascension operates Sacred Heart Health based in Pensacola and St. Vincent's HealthCare based in Jacksonville. Together, Ascension operates seven hospitals and more than 100 other sites of care, and they employ nearly 10,000 associates. Across the region, Sacred Heart and St. Vincent's have served North Florida communities for more than 145 years. In fiscal year 2017, they provided \$168

million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty. Ascension ([www.ascension.org](http://www.ascension.org)) is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. Ascension includes approximately 165,000 associates and 34,000 aligned providers. Ascension's Healthcare Division operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 153 hospitals and more than 50 senior living facilities – in 22 states and the District of Columbia. For more information on Sacred Heart Health System, visit [www.sacred-heart.org](http://www.sacred-heart.org).

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