

[http://www.decaturdaily.com/detail/43322.html?content\\_source=&category\\_id=&search\\_filter=&event\\_mode=&event\\_ts\\_from=&list\\_type=&order\\_by=&order\\_sort=&content\\_class=&sub\\_type=stories&town\\_id=](http://www.decaturdaily.com/detail/43322.html?content_source=&category_id=&search_filter=&event_mode=&event_ts_from=&list_type=&order_by=&order_sort=&content_class=&sub_type=stories&town_id=)

**Parkway: Ranking just a start**  
**By Deangelo McDaniel**  
**Staff Writer**

Amidst the celebratory cheers Tuesday, Parkway Medical Center Chief Executive Officer Tim McGill was thinking about the future.

It wasn't that he wasn't proud Data Advantage ranked Parkway among the top 1 percent of hospitals in the nation.

It wasn't that 28th national ranking among 4,500 hospitals for quality, efficiency, affordability and patient satisfaction didn't make him smile.

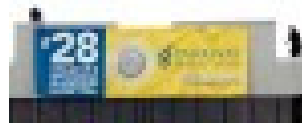
It's just he realized there are more challenges for the investor-owned hospital that opened on the Beltline in 1974.



**Daily photo by John Godbey**

Kim Beaty and Gail Locke and other Parkway Hospital employees view the unfurling of a banner declaring Parkway's national hospital ranking of 28th.

That's one of the reasons McGill and Capella Healthcare President Tom Anderson said the national ranking was a beginning, not at end.



For now, McGill and Anderson said they want area residents to know they don't have to travel outside Decatur for good health care.

"It's right here at Parkway," McGill said, just moments before hospital officials lowered a huge banner reading: "#28 Decatur's nationally ranked hospital."

About 400 people, including hospital employees, public officials and community leaders, cheered when McGill announced Parkway's ranking.

"This places us at the top tier and it's all because of you," McGill said to employees.

After the announcement, Anderson talked about Parkway's future that includes expansion.

He said the hospital is looking at constructing a medical complex to house between eight and 12 new physicians.

"We owe it to the community to continue to look at providing quality service and we're committed to doing that," Anderson said.

McGill said the complex will allow Parkway to expand services such as cardiac rehabilitation, wound care and a sleep center.

"This will also allow for the opportunity to recruit new physicians," the CEO said.

The proposals will expand on changes Parkway made since Capella acquired the hospital in 2007.

In keeping with the national trend, Parkway opened an outpatient surgery unit in April.

The unit has four suites with the capacity to treat 10 patients. McGill said outpatient surgery is up 4 percent during the same period in 2008.

Another significant change came in June with the addition of what Parkway calls the fast track emergency room the hospital operates Saturday through Monday.

The goal is to make sure every patient who comes through the emergency room is screened and receiving services within 30 minutes.

McGill said the process has allowed Parkway to streamline patients with minor problems and keep patients with more serious injuries waiting less.

"We've been pleased and we'll evaluate it at the end of six months," he said. "Our overall goal is to improve patient access."