



**St. Elizabeth's Hospital
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NASA ASTRONAUT TO SPEAK AT ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL
EMPLOYEES TO CELEBRATE SERVICE EXCELLENCE
COMPLETION**

Belleville, IL - Belleville native and NASA Astronaut Sandra Magnus, Ph.D., will be the featured speaker on May 20 at St. Elizabeth's Hospital during a hospital-wide celebration for employees at 3:00 p.m. in the Centennial Room.

Over the last two months, St. Elizabeth's has completed the first level of their newly implemented Service Excellence program. Magnus will tell her story of achieving excellence in space.

All 1600 hospital employees have completed the three-hour training course led by their peers, known as Service Excellence Advisors. The leadership team of St. Elizabeth's Hospital has committed itself to a proven process to continuously improve the patient experience, employee satisfaction, and physician engagement. Called *The Service Excellence Initiative™*, this dynamic culture change process will enhance our reputation for excellence in service to our patients, their families and our community.

Magnus graduated from Belleville West High School, Belleville, Illinois, in

1982, and received a bachelor degree in physics and a master degree in electrical engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1986 and 1990, respectively, and a doctorate from the School of Material Science and Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1996.

Following two years of training and evaluation, Magnus became a NASA mission specialist in 1998 and began working on projects related to the International Space Station. She was assigned to travel to Russia in support of hardware testing and in August 2000, she served as a CAPCOM (capsule communicator) for the ISS.

In 2002, Magnus boarded her first shuttle mission, STS-112, to deliver and install a new component to the space station's truss structure. Her job was to operate the space station's robotic arm during the three spacewalks required to outfit and activate the new component. Magnus logged a total of 10 days, 19 hours, and 58 minutes in space during that initial flight.

Following STS-112, Magnus was assigned to work with the Canadian Space Agency to prepare the Special Dexterous Manipulator robot for installation on the ISS. In July 2005, she started training for her current long-duration mission. As a flight engineer and NASA science officer on Expedition 18, Magnus is part of the crew of STS-126.

About St. Elizabeth's Hospital St. Elizabeth's Hospital, in Belleville, IL, maintains a Gold Seal of approval from the Joint Commission. The hospital was founded by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in 1875. Today, we continue their mission: to provide care for the sick and needy with a spirit of respect, care, competence and joy. St. Elizabeth's Hospital provides over \$44 million of uncompensated benefits and services for the poor, elderly, disabled and broader community in general. For more information please contact Kelly Barbeau at 618.234.2120, extension 1270.

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