SATANTA DISTRICT HOSPITAL
HEALTHCARE WITH HEART

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 23, 2026

Contact: Veronica Heredia
(620) 682-8426

BECOMING A RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

SATANTA, KS — In small towns across America, the local hospital isn't just another building on Main Street; it's a lifeline. When a farmer falls from a combine during harvest. When a high school basketball player lands wrong and hears that unmistakable crack. When a grandparent has been quietly living with pain and finally decides it's time to find out why. That's when imaging matters and for many, they never gave a second thought to the people behind it.

For many people who live in rural America, they assume that they can't stay close to home and make a decent income. They assume that being a medical professional takes a long time and that it is difficult to find a position even if they went through years of study, but most people don't know just how quickly they can learn to become a Radiology Technician and just how in demand those positions are.

One of the biggest surprises is how attainable the path is. Radiologic technologists typically earn an associate degree, which can be completed in about two to three years at institutions such as Fort Hays State University and Washburn University. Some programs are also offered online with partnership at other institutions for in-person training. The coursework can be rigorous, but it is all practical and has a clear purpose. After completing the coursework, Rad Tech students then go through clinical rotations where they work in hospitals and imaging centers, giving them hands-on experience and further insight into how meaningful the work is. After graduating, students take the national certification exam and must meet state licensure requirements.

One of the biggest myths about healthcare careers is that one must move to a city to make them worthwhile. That isn't always the case. Radiologic technologists are in demand everywhere, but especially in rural communities. Small hospitals need skilled imaging professionals to maintain emergency readiness and reduce patient travel. That demand translates into job security and competitive wages, even in small towns. For many, it means middle-class stability without uprooting

their lives. They didn't have to choose between meaningful work and staying rooted in their community.

Additionally, radiologic technology isn't static. There are opportunities to specialize in CT, MRI, Mammography, DEXA, fluoroscopy, interventional imaging, or PACS administration. There are leadership, education, quality, and safety roles. In a rural hospital, one often develops a broad skill set because they work closely with physicians, nurses, and administrators. That collaboration builds confidence quickly. The opportunities to cross-train into other modalities are abundant in rural hospitals, as flexibility is needed within smaller departments. They're not just operating equipment; you're part of a coordinated team that delivers care.

If reading this sparked something in you, even just a little curiosity, take one small step. Talk to someone who works in healthcare. Reach out to your local hospital and ask about job shadowing in imaging. Look up the nearest radiologic technology program. You don't have to have your whole future mapped out. You don't have to be completely certain. Sometimes it starts with a conversation. Sometimes it starts with a question. And sometimes that one small step leads to a career that serves your community and sustains your future.