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For immediate release

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Summa Health System Names Valerie Gibson, RN, Chief Operating Officer

AKRON, Ohio, March 10, 2015 – Summa Health System has announced the appointment of Valerie Gibson, RN, as the health system’s new chief operating officer. She began in her role March 9 and is responsible for leading the overall operations of the health system.

Gibson joins Summa from Harper University Hospital and Hutzel Women’s Hospital in Detroit, MI, where she also served as COO. During her six years in that role, Gibson led a consistent improvement in the hospital’s financial performance, including reducing excess days, decreasing bad debt, stabilizing observation cases and increasing surgical volumes. She also directed the launch of a successful orthopaedic service line for the hospital.

“Valerie brings a wide range of skills to this key position,” said Dr. Tom Malone, Summa Health System president and CEO. “The combination of her clinical and operational background will serve us very well as we continue our journey to a fully integrated healthcare delivery system.”

Prior to becoming COO at Harper and Hutzel, Gibson was vice president of Patient Care Services for more than four years there, and from 1996-2004 she was the administrative director for Acute Care Services at St. John Hospital and Medical Center, also in Detroit. Throughout her career, she has served in a variety of key nursing leadership roles, including as clinical manager for intensive care units and emergency departments, as well as director of Nursing for Specialty Services and Nursing Education. In addition to her hospital work, Gibson was an assistant professor for Clinical Nursing at Wayne State University College of Nursing.

Gibson holds a Master of Science degree in Health Services Administration from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Eastern Michigan University. She is a Board-Certified Nurse Administrator and a graduate of Leadership Detroit. Gibson is married and has four children.

About Summa Health System

Summa Health System is one of the largest integrated healthcare delivery systems in Ohio and is one of only two health systems in northeast Ohio accredited by the American College of Radiation.

Encompassing a network of hospitals, community health centers, a health plan, a physician-hospital organization, a multi-specialty physician organization, research and the Summa Foundation, Summa is nationally renowned for excellence in patient care and for exceptional approaches to healthcare delivery. Summa’s clinical services are consistently recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (Magnet status), *U.S. News and World Report*, Thomson Reuters and The Leapfrog Group. Summa also is a founding partner of the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron. For more information, visit www.summahealth.org or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/summahealth and Twitter, www.twitter.com/summahealth.

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