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PIRATES AND LECOM ANNOUNCE BRADENTON BALLPARK NAMING-RIGHTS AGREEMENT

The Pittsburgh Pirates and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) today announced a naming-rights agreement for the Club's spring training ballpark in Bradenton, Fla. As part of a 15-year naming rights agreement, the former McKechnie Field is now LECOM Park.

LECOM is the nation's largest medical college and, with Millcreek Community Hospital and the clinical practices of Medical Associates, forms America's only osteopathic Academic Health Center. With campuses in Erie and Greensburg, Pa., as well as Bradenton, Fla., LECOM shares in the Pirates commitment to both Western PA and the City of Bradenton, making the educational institution a natural partner with the Pirates in Bradenton.



"LECOM Park is our organization's southern home and we are proud to announce this agreement with a respected and established brand that has roots in Western Pennsylvania and has quickly become a leader in education in the Bradenton area," said Pirates President Frank Coonelly. "LECOM shares our mission to help develop young people into highly trained professionals so that they can pursue their dreams. LECOM also shares our commitment to community and we look forward to partnering with LECOM to continue to invest in improving the lives of others in our Bradenton community."

"The need to bring new health care professionals to Florida drew LECOM to Bradenton where we found a welcoming community spirit that included the Pittsburgh Pirates," said LECOM President John M. Ferretti, DO. "This is an opportunity to encourage wellness and health in this community as we prepare a new generation of physicians, pharmacists and dentists to meet the growing health care needs in Florida and across the nation."

In addition, the Pirates announced the recently constructed home clubhouse at LECOM Park will now be known as the Bill McKechnie Home Clubhouse to continue to recognize and honor the Pittsburgh-area native, former Bradenton resident and Hall of Fame manager Bill McKechnie. In 2015, the Pirates opened the newly renovated one-story 22,500 square foot clubhouse as part of a major capital improvement project to LECOM Park.

Bradenton and LECOM Park has hosted Pirates spring training every year since 1969. Only the Detroit Tigers have trained at its current spring training facility longer. In addition to spring training, LECOM Park is home to the Bradenton Marauders, the Pirates' Single-A affiliate in the Florida State League.

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About LECOM

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) offers innovative and affordable education in osteopathic medicine, pharmacy and dental medicine. From campuses in Erie and Greensburg, Pa. and Bradenton, Fla., LECOM provides student-centered pathways to prepare the next generation of health care professionals. The College is the core of LECOM Health, a highly innovative medical education system based in Erie, Pa. and the only academic health center in the osteopathic profession.

LECOM has more than 4100 future health care professionals preparing for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) and Masters Degrees. The College maintains one of the lowest, private medical school tuitions in the country while maintaining the highest standards in medical education. Early Acceptance Programs with more than 100 undergraduate colleges and universities grant qualified students a provisional early acceptance to LECOM. To find out more about our programs, please visit LECOM.edu.

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