Dean of MSU medical school leaving for position in Virginia

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Dr. Marsha Rappleye announced Tuesday that she is leaving her position as dean of Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine.

She has accepted a position with Virginia Commonwealth University, in that state's capital of Richmond, as vice president for health sciences and chief executive officer of VCU Health System. Her last day with MSU will be Aug. 14.

Rappleye was appointed dean in 2006 after serving as a faculty member since 1988.

The new position "allows me to lead across five health colleges and a superb health system that is the anchor institution and safety net for the people of Richmond, Virginia," she said.

She will oversee the schools of medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy and allied health. She said the schools work closely with extensive services across a cancer center, a children's hospital, a large quaternary specialty service, and an institution encompassing more than 1,100 beds and serving more than 600,000 people annually in outpatient and emergency department settings.

VCU shares a commitment to leadership and service found at MSU, she said.

"I tell you all of this so that you might understand my decision to leave the medical school and university that I so love, the place where I came of age as a physician, where I raised my family, and that inculcated the values and service to which I devote my life," Rappleye said. "This new opportunity, at this time in my life, is something that I must take."

MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon praised Rappleye as a strong leader for the College of Human Medicine.

"She nurtured a shared vision of collaboration and partnership that spanned communities across Michigan and relentlessly led the college to new levels of accomplishment, ambition and momentum for the future," Simon said. "It is hard to fully capture the extent of the college's extraordinary accomplishments during her tenure, some of which are being realized just this week with the groundbreaking of our new MSU Research Center in the Innovation Park anchoring Medical Mile in Grand Rapids."