

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alverno Clinical Laboratories, LLC – Hammond, Indiana

New State of the Art Laboratory Technology at Alverno Clinical Laboratories, LLC

Hammond, Indiana – Alverno Clinical Laboratories, LLC announces a ribbon cutting ceremony to introduce enhanced laboratory automation, the **cobas**[®] 6000 analyzer series.

Cheryl Vance, CEO, will unveil the new instrument at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on December 18, 2007 at 10:30 AM to be attended by area dignitaries and lab employees. This new system analyzes blood samples for routine and innovative chemistry tests ordered by physicians. The addition of this automation allows Alverno Clinical Laboratories, LLC to run analyses without stop 24 hours a day.

The centralized laboratory is dedicated to enriching the Hammond economic community, attracting well paid laboratory professionals to the area to serve the needs of 25 hospitals in Indiana and Illinois. Employment has reached a level of 250 jobs at the centralized laboratory. Per the Advanced Medical Technology Association each medical technology job generates two additional jobs and generates an additional \$1.12 in payroll. Each dollar of medical technology sales generates an additional \$0.90 in sales.

Automation enables hospitals to take advantage of economies of scale that come from centralized processing. The combined test volumes of area hospitals allow the Alverno Laboratory to invest in the Hammond area. “This system provides broad testing capability to continue to enhance our practice of laboratory medicine for years to come,” said James C. Sparks, PhD, Chief Clinical Officer.

“We receive more than 3,000 test requests per day, and that demand is continuing to grow,” said Dale Kahn, Laboratory Operations Manager. “Therefore, we found ourselves needing to accomplish more every day, and needed to enhance our production. With increased demand, we knew we needed to make improvements in order to maintain our goal of producing fast and accurate test results.”