

**Dr. Cynda A. Johnson, MD, MBA**, delivered the Third Annual Hylton Health Care Presentation on March 10, 2008. Dr. Johnson is Founding Dean of the Virginia Tech-Carilion Clinic College of Medicine that will be located in the City of Roanoke. Dr. Johnson earned her B.A. degree at Stanford University in 1973 (graduating Phi Beta Kappa), her MD degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine in 1977, and her MBA from the University of Missouri, Kansas City in 1999. She has served as Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinic and Translational Research and Dean of the Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University; Chairwoman of the Department of Family Medicine, Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa; and in a variety of teaching positions at the University of Kansas Medical Center and at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Medicine.

In 2007 Dr. Johnson was selected to be the Founding Dean of the College of Medicine being planned by Virginia Tech University and Carilion Clinic. She is one of only 16 female deans at the nation's 126 accredited medical schools. During the next couple of years, she will lead the development of the medical school including the crafting of its curriculum and recruiting its student body. She describes the school's mission as being "inquiry, research, and discovery." The school will enroll its first class in 2010.