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## Middletown to be site of new medical school



Plans to open a four-year medical school in Middletown to train osteopathic physicians were announced Thursday by officials of Touro College.

Dr. Alan Kadish, president and CEO of Touro College and University System, said at a news conference that the proposed school is expected to enroll 500 students, create 800 jobs and boost the region's health care network.

"This will be a branch of TouroCOM (Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine) in Manhattan," Kadish said in a telephone interview following the announcement. "This makes sense for the community. Makes sense for us. There's a real need for primary care physicians in the United States and we train primary care physicians."

Kadish said the school is expected to open in August 2014. It will be housed in the former Horton Hospital complex, which has sat vacant since Orange Regional Medical Center opened its new facility in Walkill in 2011.

Touro plans to spend \$24 million to renovate facilities that will be part of a larger medical and educational center being developed by the site's owner, the Danza Leser Group. The owners are in discussions to bring a 200-student school operated by Allied Health and an assisted living facility to the complex.

The proposed medical school is still waiting for final approval from the state Department of Education, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.

Others in attendance at the news conference were Tony Danza of Danza Leser; Joseph DeStefano, Middletown mayor; Edward Diana, Orange County executive; state Sen. John Bonacic; Assemb. Eileen Gunther and U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney.

Touro College and University System is one of the largest health care educational systems in the nation. For more information on the school, go online at [www.touro.edu/media/](http://www.touro.edu/media/)