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AHEC: Promoting the Common Health throughout the Commonwealth

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Guidance Counselor Workshop to Focus on Health Careers (cont.)

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Workshop content will focus on the academic, personal and experiential criteria necessary for students to be admitted to medical, dental, pharmacy, various allied health and nursing schools. The speakers are from the UK Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Allied Health Professions, as well as Northern Kentucky University nursing department. The workshop will also examine current health workforce shortages, and ways to help students observe and volunteer in health care facilities.

To register or receive more information, call the NC AHEC office, (859) 655-8037, ext. 16 or email sarah.hughes@kctcs.edu.



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Health Career Showcases Assist Students with Career Goals



A student performs the Heimlich maneuver on a "Choking Charlie" teaching mannequin.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" is a question that children hear frequently. Unfortunately, many students graduate from high school and reach college without a clear idea of their career goals. Two recent health career showcases conducted by the NC AHEC should help over 500 high school students begin to clarify their career goals and make plans for their post-high school education.

Students from 14 area high schools participated in the Health Career Showcase, which was held on the Thomas More campus in Edgewood on September 25th. As the groups of students filed into the Conner Convocation Center, they were met by a large array of displays and interactive exhibits. The University of Kentucky, Northern Kentucky University, Gateway Community and Technical College, Eastern Kentucky University, Cincinnati State Technical College, Lexington Community College, Thomas More College and Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine each brought displays and materials pertaining to various health professions. As students visited the displays, they talked with faculty members and current students about their



Cincinnati State surgical tech instructors display surgical tools.

profession. A large variety of handouts and informational material were available at each exhibit. Many of the displays featured activities relating to health care. Some students tried their skill at intubating a human model, while others manipulated surgical tools or tried to insert an IV into an arm model.

The following health careers were highlighted at the Health Career Showcase: dietitian, dental lab technician, athletic trainer, dentist, licensed practical nurse, massage therapist, medical assistant, medical office technologist, medical technologist, paramedic/EMT, pharmacist, pharmacy technician, physical therapist, physician, radiologic technologist, registered nurse, respiratory therapist, and surgical technician.

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The North Central AHEC provides services and programs in these counties:

- Anderson**
- Boone**
- Bourbon**
- Bracken**
- Campbell**
- Fayette**
- Franklin**
- Gallatin**
- Grant**
- Harrison**
- Jessamine**
- Kenton**
- Owen**
- Pendleton**
- Scott**
- Woodford**

Schools that participated in the Health Career Showcases

- Bellevue HS, Bellevue
- Carroll County HS, Carrollton
- Dayton HS, Dayton
- Gallatin County HS, Warsaw
- Grant County HS, Williamstown
- Harrison County Area Tech Center, Cynthiana
- Harrison County HS, Cynthiana
- Highlands HS, Fort Thomas
- Holmes HS, Covington
- Holy Cross HS, Covington
- McCormick Area Tech Center, Alexandria
- Newport Central Catholic HS, Newport
- Pendleton County HS, Falmouth
- St. Henry HS, Erlanger
- Villa Madonna HS, Villa Hills
- Williamstown HS, Williamstown

AHEC MISSION

The mission of the North Central AHEC is to promote healthy communities through innovative partnerships. This is accomplished by providing:

- Educational support services to health professions students and health care providers;
- Community health education, and
- Programs that encourage health professions as a career choice.

A Look At Local Health Care Programs

Editor's note: With this issue, the *Compass* will begin a regular feature to profile health care educational programs in the NC AHEC service area. This issue highlights the programs at Gateway Community and Technical College in Edgewood. Future issues will highlight health care programs at Northern Kentucky University, Thomas More College, the University of Kentucky, and colleges in the greater Cincinnati area.

Gateway Community and Technical College, the host site for the NC AHEC, offers a number of health care programs. All the programs are located on the Edgewood campus, 790 Thomas More Parkway, Edgewood. Gateway, a branch of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), has more than 2800 students in northern Kentucky and offers programs in 28 areas.

Students who enter the **Medical Assisting** program can chose a diploma in medical assisting or opt for an Associate of Applied Science degree. The program offers open admission, and students can start the program in the fall or spring semester. The program, which usually admits 20-30 students at a time, involves classroom and laboratory work, in addition to supervised clinical experiences in clinics and other health care facilities. The medical assisting curriculum takes three semesters to complete, and students are eligible to sit for the American Medical Technology certification examination. For more specific information contact Ms. Jackie Freeman, LPN, RMA, program director, phone (859) 442-4145, or email Jackie.Freeman@kctcs.edu.

The **Massage Therapy** program offers classes both during the day (three semesters) and in the evening (four semesters). The program offers a certificate, and students are eligible to sit for the national certification examination. The program is open admission, but classes are limited to 22 students. For more information, contact Gordon Clark, LMT, program director, phone (859) 442-4139, or email Gordon.Clark@kctcs.edu.

The **Practical Nursing** program offers a diploma, and takes three semesters to complete. Upon completion, students are eligible to take the NCLEX examination (national licensing exam) to become a licensed practical nurse. Admission to the practical nursing program is selective, and there are several pre-requisite courses that must be completed satisfactorily prior to admission to the program. The program involves classroom and laboratory work, as well as supervised clinical experiences in local hospitals and other healthcare facilities. The class size varies from 20-30, and classes usually begin in the fall and the spring. For more information, contact Ms. Terry Mayo, RN, MSN, program director, at (859) 442-4146, email Terry.Mayo@kctcs.edu.

The **Pharmacy Technician** program offers a certificate in one semester of study. The program is open admission, and the classes of 18-20 begin each spring and fall. Students will have classroom and laboratory work, as well as

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Health Career Showcases Assist Students with Career Goals (cont.)

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Students practice using an Ambu bag to inflate mannequin lungs at the NKU respiratory therapy display.

All of the 421 students attending had expressed an interest in learning more about health careers. The evaluations from students and their guidance counselors were very positive, and all indicated they had learned a great deal about health professions.

A second Health Career Showcase, in cooperation with Harrison Memorial Hospital, was held on October 24th at the Maysville Community College Licking Valley Center in Cynthiana. A total of 114 high school students from Harrison County High School and the Harrison County Area Technology Center participated in the showcase. Health professionals from Harrison Memorial Hospital were on hand to describe their respective professions and talk with students about schools, entry requirements, working conditions, and even anticipated salary levels. Professions represented included nursing, physical therapy, athletic trainer, pharmacy, radiologic technology, and medical technology.



NC AHEC Center Director Karkie Tackett with Advisory Board member Dr. Ed Hughes, CEO and President of Gateway Community & Technical College.

A Look At Local Health Care Programs (cont.)

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supervised clinical experiences in local hospitals and pharmacies. For more information, contact Ms. Paula Daly, BS, CPhT, program director, phone 442-4142, email Paula.Daly@kctcs.edu.

The **Medical Office Technology** program offers several program areas for students who are interested in the business aspects of health care.

The **medical billing specialist** option offers a certificate and takes two semesters to complete. The medical billing option is also offered at night.

The **medical receptionist** option takes one semester to complete, and offers a certificate. This program can be completed totally online.

The **medical records clerk** option takes three semesters, and offers a certificate.

The **medical transcriptionist** option offers both a diploma (three semesters) and an Associate of Applied Science degree (four semesters).

The **medical office assistant** option offers a diploma or an AAS degree in four semesters of study.

All the programs in medical office technology are open admission and classes start every fall and spring semester. For more information, contact Ms. Kim Turner, program director, phone (859) 442-4164, or email KimJ.Turner@kctcs.edu.

The newest health care program at Gateway Community and Technical College is slated to be the new **RN Program**. Gateway was granted approval by the Kentucky Board of Nursing to begin planning for the new program, which will offer an associate's degree in nursing. Ms. Terry Mayo, RN, MSN, who directs the practical nursing program, is hopeful that the program may begin in the fall of 2004, pending approval by the Kentucky Board of Nursing. Students who are interested in applying should contact Ms. Mayo, and they may begin taking general education courses in the summer of 2004 that will apply to the nursing program. Admission to the program will be selective.

Guidance Counselor Workshop to Focus on Health Careers

An upcoming workshop for school guidance counselors will update them on the entrance requirements for medical, dental and pharmacy schools, as well as other allied health programs. The NC AHEC, the Northern Kentucky Counselor's Association, Gateway Community and Technical College, and the UK Medical Center Colleges are collaborating to offer the workshop on Wednesday, March 10, 2004 in Edgewood, Kentucky. The workshop will be held at the Edgewood campus of Gateway, 790 Thomas More Parkway, Edgewood. The workshop is free, and approved for leadership development credit by the Kentucky Department of Education. Lunch and refreshments will be provided by the NC AHEC.

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