



Knoxville Healthcare Career Expo a Huge Success

In an effort to address the impact of severe labor shortages in the healthcare industry, 17 East Tennessee hospitals have been collaborating on a variety of initiatives over the past year.

The hospitals met monthly to plan and strategize methods of educating the public about the growing shortages in healthcare, and ways to encourage individuals to choose a career in health care.

A result of that collaborative effort, the AMAZING Healthcare Career Expo, was held February 12 in Knoxville. The Expo was dedicated to providing education about various healthcare careers to both high schools students seeking their future career, and adults contemplating a second career.

The Expo was sponsored by Baptist Hospital of Cocke County, Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee, Blount Memorial Hospital, Claiborne County Hospital, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Ft. Sanders Loudon Medical Center, Ft. Sanders Parkwest Medical Center, Ft. Sanders Regional Medical Center, Ft. Sanders Sevier Medical Center, Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge, Roane Medical Center, St. Mary's Jefferson Memorial Hospital, St. Mary's Medical Center, St. Mary's Medical Center of Campbell County, Sweetwater Hospital Association, University of Tennessee Medical Center and Woods Memorial Hospitals.

Over 1,200 participants learned about various healthcare professions; the education and training necessary to work in those professions; and the available sources of funding, such as scholarships, grants and low cost students loans.

For more information on the Expo, contact Jill England, Coordinated Health Services, 865-675-1664.

IDEAS IN ACTION

Guidance counselors from the five school districts in Gibson county came together to plan a countywide career day, which turned into three days of career development for high school students in Gibson county and included a student outreach to 8th grade students in the county.

The five schools districts are Bradford, Gibson County, Milan, Humboldt and Trenton. This is the fifth year of this collaborative effort for the countywide program. The location of the career day and the chairperson rotates each year.

Approximately 35 universities, community colleges and Tennessee technology centers were represented at the college fair.

Numerous health careers (based on Tennessee's career clusters), including nurse anesthetist, EMT, lab technician, LPN, pharmacist, physical therapist, physician, respiratory therapist, RN and x-ray technician, were represented at the career fair portion of the three-day event.

Healthcare professionals attending the countywide career day represented Gibson General Hospital, Humboldt General Hospital, Milan General Hospital and Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.

Submitted by Jackie Tucker, School Counselor, Gibson County High School.

If you have "Ideas In Action" or other successful recruitment and retention activities you would like to share, please contact Brenda Gatlin at 615-256-8240, bgatlin@tha.com.

Appropriations Made for Nurse Reinvestment Act

Numerous healthcare organizations from across that country had been urging congress to maintain the \$20 million in new funding for the Nurse Reinvestment Act included in the Senate omnibus FY 2003 appropriations bill as the nation struggles with a severe shortage of nurses.

This legislation would provide support for attracting more people into the nursing profession, increasing the capacity for nurse education, and encouraging practicing nurses to remain in the profession. Fortunately, conferees have appropriated funding to establish programs authorized under the this act in the amount of \$113,502,000.

In using the increase in funding, the conferees expect the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to give preference in funding to internship and residency programs, career ladder programs, and enhancing patient care delivery systems. The conferees have provided funding for scholarships for nursing students in exchange for service as a nurse for at least two years at a healthcare facility with a critical shortage of nurses.

The conferees also have appropriated funding to establish the nurse faculty loan program and comprehensive geriatric education. The nurse faculty loan program will help increase the number of faculty at schools of nursing. Comprehensive geriatric education will train and educate individuals in providing geriatric care for the elderly.

The conferees intend the nurse loan repayment funding to be directed to high priority urban and rural areas with severe nursing shortages.

Model Programs from Across the Country

Students On The Job Market In One-Day Placements

Older students at Midway High School recently spent a day job shadowing in the area. The 11th- and 12th-graders worked alongside people in a broad spectrum of professions, from policemen to chiropractors and interpreters to farm agents. Three Midway girls spent a day at Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital, shadowing people whose work illustrates the range of professions at work in a healthcare environment. Read more online at

<http://www.dunndailyrecord.com/Main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=41950>.

Retired Nurses Help Surgery Patients' Families

Josephine Hall and Sarah Wilcher have been friends since they studied nursing together in Winston- Salem. Their career paths crossed at the VA Hospital in Oteen before they retired, but they still love to be together!. So every Thursday for the past three years, Hall and Wilcher have volunteered at the surgical services unit at Mission Hospital. Read online at <http://cgi.citizen-times.com/cgi-bin/story/news/28276>.

Students Shadow Healthcare Workers

For pediatric nurse James Brown, Groundhog Shadow Day at Pitt County Memorial Hospital was not just about showing students what he does all day. It also was about

showing them the kinds of jobs they could have in the future with one catch: Do well in math and science. "The main thing we're talking about is health careers," said Brown, one of dozens of local professionals who participated in the program. "The focus of the shadowing here is to let students know how important science, chemistry, biology or math is. If you don't have 'em, you can't get out here and work." Read more online at <http://www.reflector.com/news/newsfd/auto/feed/news/2003/02/05/1044423060.16698.9845.0092.html>.

New Nursing Program Offered

The Watts School of Nursing at Durham Regional Hospital is launching a new tuition-based reimbursement agreement program that will reimburse students the cost of tuition -- including fees, books, equipment and uniforms -- for two years in exchange for the student working at a health system hospital for three years after graduation. Read more online at <http://www.thepilot.com/features/e020503Nursing.html>.

Fast Track to a Goal: WSSU-Baptist Hospital Accelerated Nursing Program

Several weeks into the accelerated nursing program at Winston-Salem State University, Holly Jamison has her routine down pat. Class from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Going running after class with other students to burn off stress. Studying all evening, and from 8 a.m. until mid-afternoon on weekends. Read more online at <http://www.journalnow.com/wsj/news/MGB3UZNHOB.html>.

Sage Offers Bachelor's Degree Program for Working Nurses

In response to a national shortage of nurses, the Sage Colleges' Albany campus is offering a new bachelor's degree for registered nurses that want to study while working.

Beginning in the fall, the college will offer the bachelor's degree through its Center for Extended Learning. It will be available in a flexible format that accommodates the schedules of working nurses. The program is designed to respond to the growing national shortage of nursing managers and educators.

The shortage of nurses with bachelor's degrees is even more severe than the shortage of registered nurses, said Ellen Ellis, director of nursing education for the New York State Nurses Association. "The need for having a baccalaureate degree is related to the real complex nature of the patients we have today," Ellis said.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates there will be a shortage of around 400,000 nurses with bachelor's degrees by 2010, Ellis said. Highly educated nurses also are needed to teach, she said.

The Sage Colleges' new program is designed to produce those types of nurses. The program will build on credits students already have earned in associate's degree programs. Nurses who already are working can decide to complete the program in an intensive, accelerated form or to spread coursework out over a longer period of time. Courses will be both web-based and held in classrooms.

They will build on the training registered nurses receive in clinical practice. Classes also will include electives such as gerontology and palliative care, as well as cultural and global health issues. In the last year of the program, students will take two graduate courses.

Administrators expect to have around 20 people enrolled in the program in the fall, said Glenda Kelman, chair of the department of nursing. The Sage Colleges offer other nursing programs, including a four-year bachelor's degree in nursing at Russell Sage College for Women. There also is a master's degree in nursing offered at Sage Graduate School.

The Sage Colleges are a family of local colleges that includes Russell Sage College for Women in Troy, The Sage College of Albany and Sage Graduate School.

Article written by Matthew Phillips, The Business Review.