

North Montco Seeks Clinical Setting for Allied Health Program

In the wake of COVID, North Montco Technical Career Center's (NMTCC) Allied Health program lost its clinical partnership. Unfortunately, this extraordinary component of the program had to be sacrificed due to the pandemic and necessary safety protocols. The program's focus this summer is to identify new partnerships for the clinical experience in time for the Fall 2022 semester.

At NMTCC, the Allied Health Program is a dual enrollment, college prep program for high school students exporting health-care careers. The program is distinct because it is operated at a participating Montgomery County clinical or hospital location and offers students a chance to observe how professional clinicians operate.

In prior years, the program's students would report to the hospital where they received theory and technical instruction. In addition, through a bi-weekly schedule of clinical rotations, students gained knowledge while working beside medical professionals in various hospital departments, such as Med-surge, ER, Lab, ICU, etc.

Ms. Bossert, RN, MSN and NMTCC's Allied Health instructor, is at the site to greet students during each rotation and escorts them to their assigned rotation. While in the clinical setting, students keep a journal of their observations and learning experiences.

"The Allied Health program is a great way for students to solidify their direction of becoming health care professionals," says Ms. Bossert. She explains, "The goal of this program is to help provide students the feel of the hospital floor as they

prepare for their careers. This partnership benefits participating hospitals by generating community involvement and awareness. Students in this program can help support the participating hospital's mission as a volunteer or help direct community members to useful health-care information."

The NMTCC Allied Health Program is a selective program for students pursuing the college prep pathway. Students apply as juniors from their sending high schools, and only 36 students are accepted each year. "The loss of the observational component, though temporarily, has impact, as this program inspires some of our best and brightest students." Every student that has had this experience to date has pursued careers such as a medical doctor, nurse, pharmacist, physician assistant, therapist, or similar. Most important, though, is that they return to this area after their training and add incredible value to our local workforce."

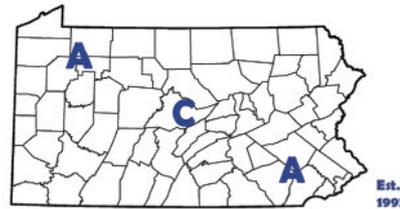
If you are interested in learning more, please contact Dr. Beth Ann Haas at bhaas@nmtcc.org. North Montco offers six high-demand occupation sectors where students build workplace skills and earn the certifications employers want most: Construction Trades, Culinary Arts, Engineering, and Manufacturing. Training in all of the programs reflect current industry trends and advances in technology. Partnerships with business and industry, manufacturing and schools have kept North Montco's programs state of the art to meet the demands of local employers.

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