

Summer 2008

Save-the-Date - September 30, 2008

A CSSI Consortium meeting will be held. Save-the-date and look for a detailed announcement in August.



Q5 Medical Industry Initiative Launched in Springfield

The Quantum Growth Partnership (Q5), with leadership from Q5 Strategic Leadership Council (SLC), the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and the Mid-Illinois Medical District (MIMD) Commission, has created an initiative to aggressively pursue economic growth in the medical industry. The initiative was created by the SLC based upon the need to capture and create emerging economic opportunities in the medical industry. The initiative is a partnership with MIMD and other leaders in the medical industry to generate economic growth. Between 1998 and 2007, four studies were conducted to assess opportunities for economic growth in the medical industry in Springfield and Sangamon County. The findings and recommendations from these reports provide the basis for the medical industry initiative which will focus on four main areas: workforce development, commercialization, marketing, and administration of the Mid-Illinois Medical District. (Editor's note: CSSI Consortium members are participating in the initiative and of particular interest is the focus on workforce development) Workforce development is the leading factor impacting strongly the future investment decisions by local and prospective employers in the health care industry. It is a complex issue with solutions based upon demand for health care services, supply of employees, education institution capacity to produce new employees, employer growth, new business growth, and many others. This initiative will partner with leaders in the community and create the opportunity for innovative solutions to meet our workforce needs.

The Chamber has hired a new Director of Medical Development, Jennie Collings, to oversee the implementation of the initiative. Ms. Collings formerly worked at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University as a Program Associate. At ISU, she was responsible for implementing HRSA grant activities that lead to the creation of a Ph.D. program in nursing and was actively involved in workforce development issues surrounding the medical industry.

EDUCATION UPDATE

Richland Offers Innovative Two-Year Bridge Program

Richland Community College has developed a part-time bridge program for licensed Practical Nurses. The program is the same as the original bridge program but allows students to complete the program at a slower pace. The plan was inspired by a recommendation from Decatur Memorial Hospital to encourage LPNs to complete degrees in order to become Registered Nurses. Beginning in January 2009, LPNs may take up to two years to complete the program (rather than the intensive one-year program currently offered). Most of the LPNs are currently working in local hospitals and agencies and the demands of the program are high. "For many LPNs, going back to school after many years of working, is a daunting task. They feel bombarded with work and school," said Mary Blankenship, Director of Richland's nursing program. "This is just another way to help them be successful."



The hospital will play a role in the nurse's success by allowing flex time at work and paying a portion of their salaries while attending school. The Local Workforce Board will contribute funding to their tuition and fees.

MacMurray Receives Technology Donation

MacMurray School of Nursing recently received a \$152,000 donation from a private donor to enhance technology in their nursing program. The donation will be used to purchase simulators and a computer lab. The College will be able to integrate technology into the classroom and enhance current resources.

Masters-Prepared Nurses Update

One of the core issues identified as contributing to the nursing shortage is a lack of qualified Masters-prepared nurses to teach. CSSI and local workforce boards have sponsored eight MSN students by awarding scholarships and asking for a commitment to teach in return. Five of the eight MSN students have graduated and have entered the teaching field.

Two of our area schools, Millikin and SIU Edwardsville, have created MSN programs that are accessible for working BSNs. SIUE MSN Graduates Angela Stockamp from Litchfield graduated in May from SIU Edwardsville. She will teach part-time at SIUE in the fall and will continue to work at Litchfield Health Care Center.

Marilyn Boatman from Carlinville, graduated May 2007 and immediately took a position at MacMurray College in Jacksonville. She has taught one year and will continue teaching this fall.

Doni Frost from Winchester taught at MacMurray in 2007-2008 after graduating in May 2007. She has taken a full-time position as a Nurse Educator at Passavant Hospital.

Millikin MSN Graduates

Shannon Davis of Taylorville graduated from Millikin in May 2007 and began teaching there part-time in the fall of 2007. She also works at St. Vincent Memorial Home Health Care in Taylorville.

Pam Laskowski of Mt. Zion graduated from Millikin in December of 2007 and taught full-time at Richland and is an adjunct at Millikin this academic year.

In the Pipe-Line

Three MSN candidates are currently attending school and working. Susana Calderon and Joanne Wetherholt from Decatur both attend Millikin and will complete their MSNs in the 2008-2009 academic year. Melissa Harlan from Springfield attends SIU-Edwardsville and will complete her MSN in the fall of 2009.

Faculty News from Richland

Good News - Richland has a full complement of faculty this academic year. Just a couple of years ago, they relied on adjunct faculty to complete their Nursing team. To show their commitment to increasing the number of nurses prepared for the workforce, RCC created two administrative positions—Dean of Health Studies and Director of Nursing Programs.— Ellen Colbeck is the new Dean and Mary Blankenship is the Director of Nursing Programs. They also increased the number of student enrollment slots by 30.

In an ever-changing educational environment, faculty have worked to improve curriculum and the student experience, including tutoring, to promote student success. Richland is proud to announce that 100% of its Fall 2007 graduates passed their NCLEX exams. Tutoring and Workforce Investment support of students have played a role in the success of students in the program. Congratulations!

Lincoln Land Faculty and Student Update

Recently Lincoln Land Community College filled the faculty position left vacant for a year by Cynthia Maskey, who took over as Associate Dean of Nursing. Cynthia reported that several qualified applicants applied for the faculty position—good news when just a few years ago it was a challenge to find Master's prepared teaching faculty!

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

MCHC Offers FREE Clinical Faculty Academies

The Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) in partnership with the State of Illinois Center of Nursing has acquired a standardized curriculum and will pilot Clinical Faculty Academies in the Northeast region of the state. The first two-day Academy will be held at Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, in August 2008 at no cost to participants. Details and registration can be found on the MCHC website, www.mchc.com.

An educational capacity team has explored the roadblocks to supporting the regional goal of expanding enrollments in schools of nursing. Currently, thousands of qualified nursing program applicants in Illinois are turned away each year. A major contributing factor to this situation is a shortage of nursing faculty who, under Illinois state law, must hold a Master's degree in nursing (MSN).

One innovative, evidence-based program to aid in developing a qualified faculty pool is through service-education partnerships. In this model, hospitals partner with educational institutions share MSN prepared nurses, which provides desperately needed faculty to the schools and continues utilization of the clinicians' skills at the hospital. When agreements are made between health care facilities and colleges, additional education is provided for the MSN prepared staff through a Clinical Faculty Academy.

If you have any questions about this initiative or the Academy, please contact Mary Pat Olson, Director, Workforce Development at MCHC at 312.906.6020 or mpolson@mchc.com.



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Critical Care Nurses Celebrate 35th Anniversary

On May 15th, approximately 30 past and present members of the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses gathered at the Island Bay Yacht Club to celebrate the Chapter's 35th anniversary. The Critical Skills Shortage Initiative, along with the Memorial Medical Foundation and the Northwest Chicago Chapter of AACN sponsored this important event.

OTHER NEWS FROM THE REGION

Lewis and Clark Receives Grant for Mobile Clinic

Lewis and Clark Community College's Nurse Managed Center for Healthcare and Education received a grant totaling \$287,000 through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant will be used to purchase a mobile clinic. The mobile clinic will allow the Nurse Managed Center to provide dental, general health and mental health screenings to more than 90,000 residents in the counties served by Lewis and Clark. The funding will allow Lewis and Clark to perform ongoing services through the mobile clinic for approximately 3,500 children in 11 targeted schools, in addition to community services such as pre-natal examinations, obstetric and gynecological examinations and general public education programs. The mobile clinic includes a reception and patient education area and two patient rooms, which will include equipment for both medical and dental exams. The Nurse Managed Center, which has been operating under a three-year grant received in 2006 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Health Resources and Services Administration), has been providing direct care to residents in all or parts of Madison, Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Macoupin counties. Under the guidance of nurse practitioners, the Center provides outreach for medical, dental and mental health services to underserved communities.

Lewis & Clark Nursing Students Now Have State-of-the-Art Building and Equipment

The new 70,000 four-story facility features six tiered classrooms with computers and projection systems, a three bed mock ICU unit, a physical assessment lab, a skills lab, two practice labs, two fundamental nursing labs with restroom facilities to teach proper transfer techniques. Additionally the fundamental lab has a pyxis medication distribution system. There is a state of the art simulator lab that is the home of Sim-Man, Noelle Maternity, and a pediatric simulator. The facility also has two computer assisted assistance labs, a nursing learning assistant specialist and testing area, a 24-seat open computer lab, two chemistry labs and two biology labs. There are over 550 computers in the building as all labs are equipped with individual student computer stations. There are 27 hospital units that contain state of the art headwalls to simulate the patient care setting.

The new facility offers Lewis and Clark nursing students experience with state-of-the-art equipment. The college truly appreciates the assistance from Alton Memorial, one of its major clinical partners, that helped make this facility a reality.



Mark you calendar for September 30, 2008 CSSI Consortium Meeting

For more information, contact the Local Workforce Board in your area.

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