

## HealthCenter21 Helps Prepare Students for Employment and Higher Learning



### Greater Johnstown Career & Technology Center

#### SCHOOL TYPE:

Career & Technology Center

#### COURSE TITLES:

- Health Assistant I
- Health Assistant II
- Health Assistant III

#### CONTACT:

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Getting students prepared for employment and for higher education is what drives Karen Chirillo, a Health Assistant instructor at Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center. “I want graduates to be ready to be employed immediately. Even if they are continuing with their education, a part time job is nice. Why not have a good part time job paying more than minimum wage while you continue your education?” Chirillo explains. Chirillo blends textbooks, lectures, and online tools like HealthCenter21 into her classroom to drive students toward that end.

### Situation

Teaching towards certification is the force behind Karen Chirillo’s Health Assistant courses. However, with all the standards and skills required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for health assistant courses, it is a challenge to get all the content into courses. Not just because of the volume of content that the students need, but also because of her diverse students who seem to always be coming and going due to scheduling. It’s a real challenge to keep everyone up to par on what they need. Much of the content that

Chirillo holds students responsible for is state-mandated.

### Solution

Last fall, Chirillo was given the opportunity to try out HealthCenter21 as an online blended learning resource for her courses before renewing it with students this fall. She says of HealthCenter21, “the course is excellent to help us with diverse students coming at various times...and they can make things up outside of school, so that’s a plus.”

Chirillo uses HealthCenter21 along with alternative tools such as lecture, skills demonstrations, and textbooks. The combination of lecture and the online program works effectively. And every student has computer or tablet, provided by the school.

Chirillo likes the online program because of the flexibility it lends her. Her students like HealthCenter21, too. “This age group, they are so electronically savvy. They love the tablets. They are happy with this type of learning,” she explains. In fact, it’s thanks to a student representative’s presentation to the Perkins Committee that convinced



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says Karen Chirillo



the administration to purchase tablets for students. Way to go!

## Results

In regards to her results with HealthCenter21, Chirillo says, “I got results, and I was happy!” Out of the 19 students that took the exam, 17 passed—an 89.5% pass rate for the American Red Cross CNA exam! “Better results with online, without question,” she concludes.

Chirillo also shared some exciting news...six of her students were nominated for Southern Allegheney Workforce Development Health Care Hero awards. And, one of her students was awarded the prize. Congratulations to Karen Chirillo and her students!



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