

Northampton Community College Uses HealthCenter21 and TAACCCT Grant to Help People Move towards Health Care Careers



Northampton Community College

SCHOOL TYPE:

Community College

COURSE TITLES:

- Health Careers Core Curriculum
- Medical Assistant Program

CONTACT:

Terry Rives

Program Manager/Instructor
Northampton Community College
Healthcare Education/TAACCCT Grant
– JobTrak,PA
511 East Third Street, Rm. 510
Bethlehem, PA 18015
www.northampton.edu/JobTrakPA/Healthcare-Career-Match.htm

Thanks to the TAACCCT grant (now called JobTrakPA), Northampton Community College Program Manager and instructor, Terry Rives has a remarkable opportunity to help students determine whether or not a health care career is the right choice for them. And, it's not costing the students anything!

Situation

Rives offers the Health Careers Core Curriculum option to students recruited from a variety of age groups and life experiences. In Health Careers Core Curriculum, students work through HealthCenter21 online content at their own paces. They are introduced to the field of health care via foundation and health care careers content through core curriculum.

Rives describes it as an offer of “skills training for high school age and adults returning to work or considering a career change or are unemployed and looking for a new career path.”

Rives explains that “at Northampton Community College, this program is a pre-course to Health 101. It is used to introduce people to the field. Some take the course and realize it's not for them. It's good in terms of self-exploration and choosing a career path. It's a career exploration tool for them.”

Another great thing about the program is that it is free for students. Students do not get credits, but they do get a certificate of completion that includes the hours they spend on the program and an index of the modules that they've completed.

The course is all online and self-paced. However, Rives does meet frequently with students on the phone and via email for career coaching. “If they need more specific work on things like resumes, they will get together and get assistance with that,” says Rives.

Solution

Rives describes the HealthCenter21 online program this way, “Having a teaching background and being an instructor, I was EXCITED about the program. What a fabulous resource! Lesson plans and everything! It's a really good tool to augment what's already here.”

And Rives isn't the only one excited about the program. “Everybody is amazed at how EASY it is to use, intuitive, easy to navigate with a lot of functionality,” Rives shares.

And for adult students, “It's a really good experience to get their feet wet before going back to school after being out for 10 years or more. It helps ease fears of going back to school, rather than jumping back into the classroom right away. It's a confidence booster.”

Rives gives an example of a student who went through the program and completed the HealthCenter21 Medical Terminology module. The student “felt this was a good springboard for the credited medical terminology course.” The student felt well-prepared as she entered the nursing assistant program, where her first course was medical terminology.

Northampton Community College is also using the HealthCenter21 solution at the credited level. Rives shared that “Instructor Karen Stone, who teaches the credited medical assistant course, could not say enough good things about the program. And her students felt that the program just reinforces what they are learning in class and helps them study.”

When contacted, Karen Stone had this to say, “Students in the Medical Assistant class are able to sit for the RMA exam at course completion. I use HealthCenter 21 as a supplement to the text book we use.

“[With] HealthCenter21, my role as site administrator is effortless and requires very little of my time, and you can’t beat that,”

says Terry Rives.

I select the topics (which are most) that echo the text book and have the students complete each section in HC 21. They complete the quiz as well which counts toward their grade. I like this program in that it is good reinforcement of the text topics and it provides another way to learn that may be better for some students.”

Results

Rives also shared some student feedback that she has received.

Elisabeth S. MacBeth: “I would like to Thank You for all the information you provided during last Thursday’s information session. You also gave me new interesting career perspectives that I previously hadn’t considered, and for that I am more than grateful.”

Michele Arnenz-Venetz: “I have just finished the Healthcare Careers Core Curriculum course and I wanted to share my experience with this course. I could not believe how much I learned about so many different aspects of the medical field. The course was so user friendly and allowed you to cover different modules at your own pace and at times that work into your schedule. After taking this course I realized what really interested me and what I was really not interested in doing. Because I really focused on taking this course, I learned so much needed information that I will use in my future medical classes. I couldn’t believe how much I knew when I started taking my classes. This course was a foundation for me to build on while in my classes. The exposure to the medical information put me ahead when starting my schooling. I just can’t tell you how much I enjoyed and learned from this class of modules. I am so glad that I took this class and I would highly recommend that anyone going into the medical field should take this. I would love to see courses like this for all career

options. It is a Win-Win situation, either you build on the information you learned in that career or you may find out this is not the career for you! I also have to tell you how wonderful Terry Rives is; she is a real asset to making this course work so well. Terry was there for me anytime I needed help with something and to make sure that everything was going well. My whole experience with this course was truly amazing and so informational. Thank You!”

And Rives final thoughts? As a site-administrator for nearly 150 participants in NCC’s Free Healthcare Career Match online training, and 10 fellow instructors with different online healthcare education programs, only 1 student experienced difficulty logging in for the first time and the instructors couldn’t say enough praises about it! When I’ve had technical support needs or ideas, AES’ responsiveness has always been impressive! Not only is HealthCenter21 available at no cost to participants, my role as site administrator is effortless and requires very little of my time, and you can’t beat that! It’s a “Win-Win” all the way around.