

## At Mid-Ohio Valley Technical Institute, HealthCenter21 Online Engages and Challenges the Diverse Body of Students



### Mid-Ohio Valley Technical Institute

#### SCHOOL TYPE:

Career and Technical Center serving high school juniors and seniors from 4 counties and 6 high schools

#### COURSE TITLES:

- Health Science II
- Medical Professions (a pilot accelerated class that combines first and second year)

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Teaching a diverse group of students is an ongoing challenge for instructors everywhere. Add to that the complexity of managing clinicals and keeping other students relevantly occupied at the same time. To her delight, Pam Porfeli of Mid-Ohio Valley Technical Institute, has found that with HealthCenter21 online, there is “no reason for any downtime.” It is “absolutely perfect!” she says.

### Situation

Porfeli teaches two courses, Health Science II and a pilot course Medical Professions. In both courses, Porfeli faces a great deal of diversity in regards to what specific curriculum each student is pursuing. In addition, students are not often in the classroom at the same time. And finally, students are required to perform clinicals, as well, leaving those students not participating in the clinicals on their own. So by nature, students must work independently for a good portion of these courses. The challenge for Porfeli, of course, is keeping students on task—on relevant task—throughout the course.

### Solution

Porfeli found an “absolutely perfect” tool to keep students on task and make the most of everyone’s time—HealthCenter21 online. HealthCenter21 “is a perfect fit for these two programs,” Porfeli explains. “In some cases, like Law and Ethics or Infection Control, I use the program’s instructor Powerpoint and do a lecture using the information as a resource. Other times, I assign a specific unit (module) to be completed on a certain day and open the test on that day and have the class take it as a group.”

Porfeli’s Medical Professions course is like an AP course and the students enrolled must be able to function independently. Porfeli describes, “It is almost all Problem Based and Project Based. Since it is Project Based, the units in HealthCenter21 fit perfectly. In that class, I develop projects and function as a resource/assistant/guide for the students. They all work at their own pace. This year—I am ON IT!! I have a class that I love and we are flying, largely due to HealthCenter21. I can’t imagine having to prepare all of those challenging lessons and do everything else for the nearly 55 students I have in the two classes.”

Porfeli assigns a ‘due date’ for the class to complete a module for a test, and then gives that test on the appointed date. She explains that students “soon learned that is how it would be even if they hadn’t finished the module.” She gives them plenty of time and they have to plan.

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says Pam Porfeli.

She recommends that her students do the units in the order they are listed, but that is not a requirement. If they want to jump around, that is okay as long as they do the assigned units in time for the test. Porfeli finds “the lessons to be challenging, thorough and interesting.”

## Results

“For the diversity in my classroom, HealthCenter21 has made it possible for each student to stay engaged and always have a challenging assignment waiting for them. There is virtually NO down time waiting for classmates to complete an assignment,” Porfeli says.

She goes on to explain, “The students used the HealthCenter21 Nursing Assistant information and the long term care resources and taught the information, tested, post-tested and awarded certificates to their classmates—all with the information from HealthCenter21 as the primary resource. HealthCenter21 even has rubrics to use as they tested the skills and in most cases were more comprehensive and user friendly than in other texts we have used.



These students just finished their clinical component for Long Term Care and 100% of them are now test eligible. Our regular first year students are not even out to clinical yet!”

Porfeli concludes by saying that the curriculum in HealthCenter21 is challenging and that Applied Educational Systems offers up-to-the-minute updates in curriculum to keep it current and relevant. She says that HealthCenter21 is “first class!”

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