

DUTCH BOCES SCS SPOTLIGHT

January 2016

NURSING GRADS

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY



NURSING STUDENTS GRADUATE READY TO CARE FOR PATIENTS

Thirty-five students graduated from the Dutchess BOCES School of Practical Nursing December 15th, ready to move on to health care careers. Family, friends, and BOCES staff celebrated the graduates at a moving pinning ceremony held in the Salt Point Center gymnasium. The program featured a candle lighting ceremony and the Florence Nightingale Pledge.

"We have adult students who returned to school and some students who just completed our high school nursing assistant program and enrolled," said Dr. Susan Moraca, Coordinator for Health Occupations. "After entrance testing, the students can study for 20 months part-time or pursue the rigorous program full time in ten months."



While the students all share the same accomplishment, the paths that brought them to the nursing program and their futures differ greatly. For Jason Hoyes, who completed the program in ten months, his graduation coincides with a life changing telephone call he received after the terrorist attacks in Paris. The Army Reserve Specialist was notified his unit will be deployed to the Middle East just after the new year.

"When I graduated high school I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I tried Dutchess Community College and it didn't work out so I joined the Army in 2009," said Hoyes. "After serving, I saw how much all the people I knew who were in nursing cared and I felt I cared and could do it too."

Hoyes, who works as a personal care assistant for a private agency, said he would continue working until his deployment. "You get to see people in different situations and in a lot of cases they can't do a lot for themselves and they appreciate having someone there to help every day," he said. At the present time, Hoyes is not in a health care related title in the Army Reserves, but he hopes that eventually he can use his nursing certification to pursue a medic pathway and serve in a different capacity taking advantage of his specialized training.

Frank Carbone was drawn to the nursing program after years working in retail serving customers with a smile at Blockbuster. His career choice became clear after his mother suffered a stroke and he became her caregiver. While he had wanted to pursue a nursing career for quite some time, he wasn't quite sure he would be able to do it and work the long shifts.



After a friend suggested he work at Ability Beyond in a support role, he quickly enjoyed the work and was named assistant manager of a home. There, he frequently saw the difficulties of filling empty shifts and he wanted to do more than simply call in substitutes.

"I thought if I became a nurse I could step in, I could help," he said. "Now I am a nurse, and can manage the home and also step in to help." Carbone says he will be glad to play an active role in seeing that no one's health care or well-being will be jeopardized due to staffing issues. He also appreciates the extra earning power his new certification brings.

Other graduates arrived with foreign high school credentials or equivalency diplomas and completed the program to increase their employability. Health care is one of the fastest growing career sectors and the new certifications are sought out. Last year, the School of Nursing held a career fair and 45 vendors came to recruit 40 graduates.



Congratulations to those members of the Class of December 2015 who earned membership in the National Technical Honor Society. Admission is based upon standards in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and service.

Nana Agyeman
Shelly Burt
Soraya Carey
Joanna Deptula
Emily Gabriele

Doris Little
Winy McKinnon
Perla Ocampo
Carrie Veach



The Florence Nightingale Pledge

"I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly, to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully. I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug. I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession, and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling. With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work, and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care."

The Dutchess BOCES School of Practical Nursing is an independent school housed in the Career and Technical Institute. Students may study full time for 10 months or part-time for 20 months to complete the Licensed Practical Nursing Program. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the New York State certification exam.

For more information about the program, visit www.dcbores.org and click on the Adult Nursing Program tab under schools or call Dr. Susan Moraca, Coordinator of Health Occupations, at 845-486-8045.

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