

Grant to Fund Sim Lab Lab Will Enhance Clinical Training

A \$1.9 million federal grant has been awarded to Virginia Appalachian Tricollage Nursing Program (VATNP) to develop a state-of-the-art nursing simulation laboratory that will greatly enhance clinical training for nursing students throughout Southwest Virginia.

The lab will be located on the campus of Virginia Highlands Community College (VHCC) and will be used by VATNP students from VHCC, Mountain Empire Community College, and Southwest Virginia Community College. Hospitals and other health care agencies also will be invited to use the lab for continuing education programs, said VATNP Dean Kathy Mitchell.

Grant funds for this project will be provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources.

State-of-the-art high fidelity mannequins that can be programmed to exhibit common symptoms of many different medical conditions will equip the new lab, which will be the first of its kind in our region. The computerized patients are so advanced that they appear to breathe and have beating hearts, Mitchell said, and will react when care is administered.

"If a nursing student gives him a medication he is allergic to, his throat may begin to swell or he may complain that he can't breathe," Mitchell explained. "He may even go into cardiac arrest. These are very realistic mannequins, and this lab will allow us to create situations that will ultimately create better nurses."

VATNP students currently complete clinical training in hospitals throughout the region, and this will continue to be an important component of the program, Mitchell said. The simulation lab will enhance this training by allowing students to simultaneously care for multiple computerized patients who require different levels of care. Each session in the lab will be videotaped and reviewed by the student and nursing instructor, Mitchell said, to ensure students are learning from the lab experience.

"In a hospital setting we obviously can't allow our students to administer the wrong medication or to care for critically ill patients independently," Mitchell said. "They may complete their clinical training without ever treating a heart attack patient or a burn victim. We can create these situations in our simulation lab and allow our student nurses to learn from their mistakes."

The lab will be located in the Nursing Education Building on the VHCC campus and is expected to be operational by January, Mitchell said. Grant funds will be used to purchase the needed equipment and to staff the lab with a nursing faculty member and an instructional technologist. VATNP currently enrolls about 480 students on all three community college campuses and each student will have an opportunity to participate in learning activities using the lab.

When not being used by VATNP students, the lab will be available to provide continuing education programs for the region's healthcare workers and for use by other nursing education programs.

"This will truly be a community resource," Mitchell said.



This is SUMMER CAMP?

Summer camp at VHCC was marked by career exploration and hands-on training instead of marshmallows and ghost stories, but participants enjoyed the activities every bit as much as traditional camp programs.

Nursing Camp introduced rising high school juniors and seniors to a variety of healthcare professions. Funding for the camp was provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Each participant was trained and certified in CPR and received a \$100 stipend to attend.

The highlight of the four-day camp was a staged traffic accident on the VHCC campus that left a volunteer victim trapped in an overturned vehicle. The Washington County Lifesaving Crew and Wings Air Rescue, the helicopter owned and operated by Mountain States Health Alliance, responded to the accident and then briefed students on the proper response techniques.

The following week, middle school students from throughout the area participated in VHCC Technology Camp, an event funded by Tech Prep and organized by the VHCC Educational Talent Search Program.

Technology camp each year provides hands-on projects and field trips to show students how many different forms of technology are used in a variety of careers. Two days of the camp were spent attending workshops on such things as logo design, robot construction, forensic science, and software design.



The remaining two days of camp were spent on field trips to WonderWorks Museum in Pigeon Forge and to Sugar Hollow Park, where ecologists from Appalachian Sustainable Development's Learning Landscapes helped students test water quality and search for living organisms in the stream using technology.

The final day of camp, those who participated in the robot workshop demonstrated their machines during "Robot Wars."

About 100 middle school students from throughout the service region participated in Technology Camp this year.



VHCC News is produced each month by Anne Dunham of the Office of Institutional Advancement. If you would like to suggest information for the newsletter, please send your ideas to adunham@vhcc.edu or contact her by phone at 276-739-2456. VHCC is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

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Play Ball!

Dr. Ron Proffitt, VHCC President, made his Minor League pitching debut at Boyce Cox Field on July 23 when he threw out the first baseball during a Bristol White Sox game. About 200 students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered for the annual event centered around America's favorite past time.

More than a dozen VHCC prizes were given away throughout the game and VHCC Student Erin Martin and Jeremy Weaver, a member of the VHCC Alumni Association, entertained the crowd by singing *God Bless America* during the 7th Inning Stretch.

CSSA to Support Saltville Gives Back



Members of the VHCC Classified Support Staff Association are inviting the campus community this year to support a Saltville-wide effort to provide school supplies and other back-to-school necessities for children in need.

The effort is named Saltville Gives Back and is being led as an off-duty activity by Debbie Barrett of the VHCC Admissions Department and members of other Smyth County Churches. The event began last year and about 400 children are expected to be served this year, Debbie said.

To assist in this effort, the CSSA is asking members of the VHCC family to donate backpacks or make cash donations that can be used for other needed items. Those who attend the Aug. 7 event will receive a bag of school supplies, a free dental kit, a voucher to receive a medical exam, a free haircut, and an evening of fun at the Saltville Wave Pool.

Debbie said the group already has plenty of loose-leaf paper, pencils, and binders. However, those who prefer to donate supplies rather than cash could get crayons, glue sticks, and other items that are included on most school supply lists, she said. Everything donated will be distributed to those in need, she said.

Because the Saltville Gives Back event is planned for Aug. 7, all donations should be made by noon on Friday, Aug. 6.

Pears Galore!

The espalier tree planted on campus in 2005 to celebrate VHCC's participation in the Foundations of Excellence project is now producing an abundance of Keifer pears - many of them almost ready to pick. This symbolic feature of the campus landscape demonstrates how hard work - coupled with patience and special attention to detail - will bear fruit for many years to come.



Member Benefit Profile Available in August

The 2010 Member Benefit Profile (MBP) for Virginia Retirement System (VRS) members will be available in August through myVRS. The MBP is the annual benefit statement for VRS members based on information in their records as of June 30th of each year.

Beginning this year, VRS is no longer printing and shipping paper versions of the MBP reports. Instead, members may access them electronically through myVRS. Go to the Retirement Planning section on the VHCC Human Resources web page or directly to www.varetire.org for access to myVRS and additional retirement planning information.

Funds Help Gain Advanced Manufacturing Skills

Workforce Investment Act funds have been awarded to Virginia Highlands Community College to assist those interested in gaining the certifications and credentials needed to compete in today's advanced manufacturing industries.

The funds can be used to cover the cost of tuition, books, supplies and assessment fees related to the attainment of state-approved credentials and apprenticeship instruction offered at VHCC. Funds will be available through June 30, 2011.

"VHCC was chosen for this program because of our long history of working with local manufacturing companies and our close working relationship with the Virginia Manufacturing Association," said Melinda Leland, dean of the Division of Workforce Training and

Continuing Education at VHCC. "The funds will help train local residents for specialized manufacturing jobs that are available in our region."

The long list of credentials that can be attained through this program includes certification from the National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER), Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), and Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). Funds also are available for apprenticeship programs in the HVAC, electricity, welding, tool and die, industrial maintenance, and machining industries.

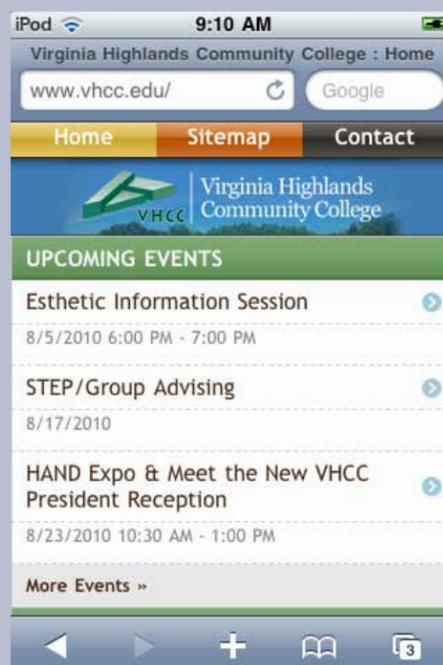
For additional information or a complete list of the eligible credentials and certifications offered at VHCC, please contact Teresa Taylor at (276) 739-2417 or ttaylor@vhcc.edu.

Welcome Back Breakfast, Adjunct Dinner Set

Faculty and Staff will begin the school year with a breakfast meeting set for 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 16, at the Abingdon Senior Center. The meeting is mandatory for all full-time faculty and staff and will include the "State of the College" Address by Dr. Proffitt, service awards, and a presentation regarding the demographics of VHCC's fall student body.

The annual Adjunct Faculty meeting will be held at 6 p.m. that evening in the Keyser-Aday Theatre and will include dinner and reminders of important policies and procedures that impact part-time instructors. email dclear@vhcc.edu for more information.

Mobile Website Launched



It just got easier to access the VHCC website from your smart phone or other handheld device. We've recently launched a mobile version of the VHCC website optimized for mobile devices.

To access the mobile VHCC website, simply visit www.vhcc.edu on your mobile device. You will automatically be redirected to an optimized version of the website, which is easier to read and navigate on a smaller screen. The VHCC mobile website is compatible with all major smart phone operating systems including: iPhone, Blackberry, Andriod, Windows Mobile, and more.

For technical assistance or more information contact Nikelle Hagy or email webmaster@vhcc.edu.

CAMPUS CRAZE DAYZ

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS



COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JOIN THE PACK

Another school year means another opportunity to roll out the red carpet with Campus Craze Dayz, the week-long celebration that provides fun activities and important information for new and returning students. This year's participants will be invited to "Join the Pack" as they proudly display the VHCC Wolves t-shirt designed by Nikelle Hagy. Students will also have the opportunity to win an Apple iPad by participating in a campus scavenger hunt.

monday, august 23

HAND Expo - 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Popsicles with President Proffitt - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

tuesday, august 24

ICE Breaker (Giant Twister Game) - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Coomes Center Pool Party - 7 to 9 p.m.

wednesday, august 25

Back to School Bash with Impeach Dixon - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Movie Under the Stars (Iron Man 2) - 9 p.m.

thursday, august 26

Wiffleball: Students vs. Faculty/Staff - 2 p.m.

SGA Luau with Ras Alan - 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

All events, except the Coomes Center Pool Party, will be held outside in the Campus Commons.

Check the website for more information - coming soon!