

Health care tops list of high demand, salary jobs

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By Robin Nixon

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El Dorado, Kan. -

Butler Community College Trustees took a look at a report on nursing allied health and early childhood education during their May board meeting.

Information was prepared by Trish Hutchinson, division dean.

According to Hutchinson's report, the health care occupations continue to top the list of high demand, high salary occupations locally and nationally. She expressed that currently the nursing program applicant pool has more than 280 qualified and highly competitive applicants for the Fall of 2009.

Shortages in the nursing profession have been well documented and are predicted to compound over the next 10 years.

Supportive allied health occupations are not as closely tracked and the Site Selection group, a leading provider of campus location and program optimization solutions for career colleges, completed a study which evaluated more than 800 occupations in the eight largest metropolitan areas of the United States.

According to the analysis, Healthcare support occupations had the highest ranking projected growth rate at more than 250 percent of the national average and had a high employment deficiency.

Occupations in healthcare support include home health aids, nurse aids, dental assistants and pharmacy aids and technicians.

Hutchinson reported that health care support, health care practitioners and education were in the top five clusters of the Site Selection Group Analysis.

Butler's nursing department has 18 full-time nursing faculty and its key unit processes are designing and refining nursing curriculum, implementing active learning in delivery of nursing courses, assisting student learning, providing teaching and learning resources, systematic evaluation that reviews programs, eliciting feedback from advisory council biannual meetings, and maintaining national and state program accreditation.

In 2008, the nursing department accomplished a number of goals set.

The department received full accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission in July last year and was approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing RN and Practical Nursing program.

The Allied Health Department has partnered with the Urban League of Kansas as part of the Urban League Kansas Quick Careers program offering Nurse Aide classes, success skills and home health aide classes. Seventy-one out of 80 students successfully completed and passed the state exam.

The Emergency Medical Technician Department continues to yield a 95 to 100 percent pass rate on the state skill exam for EMT and 100 percent for EMT-1.

Butler's EMS education department is currently in the process of offering ACLS and EKG recognition courses for CEU's with a goal to offer CEU's on a consistent basis, which included national certification refresher courses for EMT and paramedic.

The Message Therapy Department has several goals lined up.

Creating space for student massage clinic needs to be looked at, completion of the application for commission on massage therapy accreditation and pursuing continuing education opportunities for South Central Kansas.

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