

Healthcare Career Progression Training Grant Graduates

By: Judy Winkler, NCWWDB Communications Coordinator



Photo by: Judy Winkler
Healthcare Career Progression Training Graduates happily pose with their certificates of completion. Pictured left to right: Betty Moskonas; Janelle Lane; Elizabeth Drifka; Kathy Heck; and Renee Chatman.

Ministry Healthcare in Stevens Point recently held a graduation celebration to recognize five Ministry employees who each seized the opportunity to advance their healthcare careers. The opportunity came in the form of a grant awarded to the North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (NCWWDB). Key partners in coordinating this project were Ministry Healthcare; Aspirus; Marshfield Clinic; Riverview Hospital Association; Langlade Memorial Hospital; Community Care of Central WI; Mid-State, Northcentral and Nicolet Area Technical Colleges; Centergy; and NCWWDB.

The primary objectives of the Healthcare Career Progression Training Grant are to increase the skill levels and retention rate of those participating in the pilot project. Participants were chosen based on their interest in progressing to a higher level career in the healthcare field.

During a brief program Natasha Wetterau, HR Talent Manager at Ministry Health Care, welcomed attendees and offered congratulations to the graduates.

Each participant was required to take the WorkKeys Assessments prior to starting their training, and again once their training was complete to receive their National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). According to NCWWDB's WorkKeys Coordinator, Heather Sairs, the graduate's post WorkKeys scores showed an impressive improvement and Sairs congratulated each of them on their academic successes.

"Ministry did such a wonderful job in selecting people they knew would really grab this opportunity and make the most of it," said Janet Newman, Service and Health Division Dean at Mid-State Technical College.

Ministry Healthcare's Recruitment Consultant, Kevin Schniepp, introduced each of the graduates and read quotes written by each of them. Barb Fleisner, Executive Director of Centergy, presented the graduates with certificates of completion, while Sairs handed them their NCRCs.

Janelle Lane – Diagnostic Technical Assistant/Admitting Representative - June 2005



“When the opportunity to apply for the grant was sent out via email I had already worn various hats in the healthcare field. I have always had a passion for serving patients and their families, but I wanted more. I just didn’t know what. I would see someone doing their job and it looked so fascinating to me, but I didn’t know what it took to “become” that person. I saw the grant as an open door just waiting for me to walk thru, at just the RIGHT time in my life.”

Renee Chatman – Patient Financial Services Specialist - November 2007



“I discovered through the grant that it is never too late to learn new things and anything is possible. I have enrolled in the Associate Degree for Nursing program at MSTC. I will be taking my CNA classes soon and then hope to work as a CNA at Ministry while I’m on the wait list for the core nursing classes (right now the wait list is at 18 months!) When I finish the entire program I hope to work at Ministry as an RN.”

Elizabeth Drifka – Phlebotomist - May 1992



“I enjoyed all the classes. All of our instructors were topnotch. They made the classes challenging and fun. I also enjoyed meeting all the great people I went through the program with. We became cheerleaders for one another.”

Kathy Heck - Provider Employment Contract Specialist - May 2005



“The Medical Terminology section of the grant was by far the most challenging, but also highly rewarding. Coming into the class, I was extremely nervous; however, the class was not only interesting but laid out in such a way that by the end, we were all quoting medical terminology like we had been doing it for years! It was a huge morale boost for me to be able to do well in such a difficult class and has helped to alleviate some of the concerns I had about returning to higher education.”

Betty Moskonas – Telecomm Operator - September 2008



“The healthcare career and job shadowing is something every person in this facility should experience. I learned about each department and had a better understanding of how they operate. Every job in this facility is important and we have employees that take pride their job and really care about their patients.”

Amy Cummings (Not Present) - Patient Account Representative - May of 2008

Amy left the process mid-stream. Based on the initial part of this program, she was inspired to jump the gun. She is already going to school for her Registered Nursing Program.

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