

## Pharmacy Technology Program Receives Generous Equipment Donations from Local Pharmacies

Pharmacy Technology students at Cabarrus College of Health Sciences now have two additional pieces of laboratory equipment essential to preparing sterile intravenous medications, thanks to gifts from Novant Health Rowan Medical Center in Salisbury, NC and Neil Medical Group in Mooresville, NC.

Novant Rowan Medical Center recently donated a Glovebox Isolator (*see bottom left*) for students to use as a sterile environment for making chemotherapy and other injectable medications. Neil Medical Group donated a laminar flow hood (*see bottom right*), also called an IV hood, which also simulates the sterile compounding environment.

"Until recently, we had only one hood for the students to share and rotate through during their practice and simulations," said Annette Simmons, chair of the pharmacy technology program. "This donation brings us to two IV hoods and a glovebox in the lab for students to utilize, providing more time and space to strengthen their sterile compounding skills."

Simmons said the cost of an IV hood could range between \$1,000 and \$10,000. Rich Andrews, Pharmacy Operations Manager at Neil Medical Group, said the donation was made when new equipment was installed. "To be 797 compliant we needed to get a Glove Box Hood," Andrews said. Dr. Carla Kennedy, Pharmacy Manager at Novant Health Rowan Medical Center, contacted Ms. Simmons when the inpatient pharmacy no longer needed their isolator glovebox. "It is over 15 years old but has never been used," Kennedy said.

The pharmacy technician program at Cabarrus College of Health Sciences provides students with the skills and knowledge to enable them to qualify for entry- and advanced-level positions in pharmacies as well as prepare for the national certification exam.

