

Anesthesia Tech Graduation

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For Immediate Release



FIRST CLASS GRADUATES FROM ANESTHESIA TECH PROGRAM

Charlotte, NC – On June 21st, seventeen (17) people will become the first to receive certificates from the newly created Anesthesia Technician Certificate Program piloted by Carolinas College of Health Sciences (CCHS) and the Competitive Workforce Alliance Allied Health Regional Skills Partnership. Developed to increase professionalism, skills and wage levels for this entry-level allied health position, the program prepares technicians to assume some of the lower level tasks currently performed by nurse anesthetists. “This is a unique program,” said Ellen Sheppard, President of CCHS. “Though anesthesia technicians and technologists have been around for a while, their role was not standardized and on-the-job training resulted in significant variability in skill levels. Certification assures that the technician can perform certain skills with uniformly high competence. This frees up other personnel to focus on the more demanding aspects of their scope of practice. Additionally, the certificate program creates a career pathway, allows the technicians to increase their skills and their wages, and enhances their self-esteem as a valued part of the health care team.”

The Anesthesia Technician certificate program is a 9-month continuing education program that standardizes quality expectations in the profession through training in anesthesia equipment, procedures, and operating room protocol. As part of the partnership between CCHS and The Allied Health Regional Skills Partnership, the curriculum developed by CCHS will be made available to any college in the state wishing to start such a program. “We anticipate this certificate program will be of value to hospitals seeking to maximize the efficiency of their operating rooms and to optimize quality outcomes,” said Sheppard. Known as “Anesthesia Tech in a Box,” since all materials needed to launch the program will be DVD’s in one box, the curriculum will be given to the Continuing Education Department of the North Carolina State Community College System in July of 2012, and made available statewide at no charge. “This is very timely,” said CCHS President and project leader Ellen Sheppard. “We are developing this just as the Anesthesia Technician Professional Society is preparing to increase the standards for those in the field, and this program prepares existing employees to be prepared for that change.”

Carolinan College of Health Sciences (www.CarolinanCollege.edu), ranked the number one two-year college in the nation, offers programs in health care education. Graduates consistently exceed state and national certification testing benchmarks, demonstrating their exceptional preparedness for careers in medical laboratory science, nursing, radiation therapy, radiologic technology, and surgical technology. The College also offers individual courses in the sciences and liberal arts as well as continuing education programs in professional skills and integrative medicine. Carolinas College is home to the Carolinas Simulation Center, a rich collection of high fidelity human patient simulators and procedural task trainers.

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