

Health Field calls for workers: HELP!

Thinking of an area of study for a career? Perhaps you are a dislocated worker looking at what opportunities you may have in your future? Perhaps you are new to the workforce and are just trying to find a path to take. Think no longer! The health care field is calling!

Health Services is the third highest growth industry in Northwest Pennsylvania (following education and business services), according to the PA Dept. of Labor & Industry Short Term Forecast. It is anticipated that there will be over 5700 job openings in our region by 2008 (a 27% growth). Many of these jobs are working with older adults in long-term care and assisted living. The older population is continuing to grow and is expected to peak in the year 2025. A career working with older adults assures you a job for many years into the future!

Occupations that are and will continue to be in great demand in Northwest Pennsylvania include: registered nurses, practical nurses, certified nurse aides, personal care aides and unit/hospitality aides. Some of these professions require a minimum of 2 years of coursework and then sitting for an exam. Northwest PA is blessed with excellent educational institutions that are available to help you obtain that goal.

Better-yet, many of the not-for profit facilities in the region offer scholarships on a work/school program. Work for the facility as a nurse aide and attend school to complete a nursing program. Scholarships vary from part to full and usually have a promise of remaining at the facility for an amount of time in exchange for the scholarship.

Certified Nurse Aide positions and free training to become a nurse aide are widely available. Training consists of approximately three weeks of classroom and on-the-job clinical training. Entry-level positions in nursing exist as hospitality aides. Individuals in these professions assist nursing staff and residents with every day tasks.

Pennsylvania is the second in the number of persons over 65. Now is the time to choose a stable career working with older adults. Work with your local Career Link to see what jobs are currently available. They are an excellent resource!

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