



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

First class to complete district's new Certified Nurse Aide training honored

The Goose Creek CISD Health Science Department recently honored the first class to complete a new Certified Nurse Aide Training and Clinical Program for high school students.

Offering a CNA Program was a major goal for health science teachers at all three high schools: Debbie Himsel, RN, Goose Creek Memorial; Glenda Sandifer, RN, Robert E. Lee; and Donna Truncale, RT, Ross S. Sterling.

Health science classes prepare students academically and professionally for careers in the health care industry, but specific training was needed to prepare students to enter the health care work force while in school or soon after graduation.

The 12 charter students completed the 96-hour course in addition to their regular health science classes. The students (four from each of the district's three main high schools) met at night at Sterling for the classes and completed clinical hours at a local long term care facility.

Student enrollment was limited in the first year, but it will be offered to a greater number of students next year with the potential for multiple classes each school year. Next year, the CNA program will be open to 12th grade students enrolled in the Health Science Practicum course.

At the end of the course, students are recommended to test for the state CNA certification. This allows them to work in the healthcare field while continuing in post-secondary education towards various careers in the health science career cluster.

CNA certification is a beginning step to prepare a student for more advanced nursing programs.

The purchase of curriculum and a training manikin was made possible by three grants awarded to each health science teacher totaling nearly \$3,000 from the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation.

After seeing her students quickly employed, Sterling HST teacher, Donna Truncale, reported, "It is very exciting and rewarding to see your students working in the health field. It helps to know that all the hard work you and the students do each day really does pay off in the end. I know one day some of these students might be taking care of me."



The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that jobs for nursing aides would increase by 19 percent from 2008 to 2018. It was seen as a direct result of an increasing senior population that required long-term residential care to enhance the quality of life. Also, while advanced technology prolonged lives, it created the need for more nursing aides and other health professionals.

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