



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Dana L. Redd

Phone: (856) 203-6757

Email: dredd@rurcbog.com

Rowan University Rutgers Camden Board of Governors Welcomes 3rd Cohort of High School Students for Medical Assistants Training Program

CAMDEN, NJ – Continuing its duty to develop and expand programs that will augment a broader effort to prepare a new generation of health care providers in southern New Jersey and the region, the Rowan University Rutgers Camden Board of Governors (Joint Board) today proudly welcomed the 3rd cohort of Camden City high school students into the Medical Assistants Training Program.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the “eds and meds” support 86,000 jobs in the Camden metropolitan area and outperform other sectors with the exception of transportation, utilities and trade. The demand for health care professionals will continue to grow and be a sustaining source of employment. The Joint Board’s involvement in preparing high school students to meet the demands of the market place is not only a core function, but it creates an opportunity to help city residents.

“The Joint Board will continue to advance workforce development and training programs for Camden residents,” said Michellene Davis, Esq., member of the Rowan University Rutgers Camden Board of Governors and Chair of the Academic Committee. “It is vitally important that we provide “cradle to career and to college” pathways for Camden youth.”

One student to join the cohort is Pablita Malave, who at 19 years old, is soon to graduate from the Camden City School District’s Gateway to College program. Ms. Malave initially left high school after having some challenges in the traditional school environment. She never imagined herself one day being honored as the graduation speaker. Her interest in the medical field was sparked ever since she was a young girl as she would watch her grandmother earn a living by taking care of people in the community as a home health aide.

“This is a moment I never thought would happen,” said Ms. Malave. “Helping others has always been a passion of mine and I am excited to have this opportunity to study the medical field at Camden County College, to possibly intern at Cooper University Hospital and to one day be in a profession that makes me excited about my future.. I am extrelemy thankful for the people who have helped me to get to where I am now.”

“Without question, our young people in Camden have enormous potential to succeed in careers in the allied health professions,” said Dana L. Redd, CEO of the Rowan University Rutgers Camden Board of Governors. “I have witnessed firsthand how the Medical Assistants Training Program has not only provided hope for our Camden youth, but also provided a pathway forward out of intergenerational poverty.”

I’ve seen this program transform the lives of youth,” said Laura Jakimowicz, Program and Policy Analyst for the Rowan University Rutgers Camden Board of Governors. “Graduates are able to make a living,

support their families and kick-start a career in healthcare,” A Certified Medical Assistant position is only the start for many of our graduates. It is an honor to watch them grow, thrive, and achieve their dreams.”

Collaborative partners for the implementation of the Medical Assistants Training Program include the Joint Board, the Camden City School District, Camden County College, the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers, Hopeworks N Camden, the Camden County One Stop, Cooper University Health Care, Our Lady of Lourdes, Virtua Health Systems, and Osborne Family Health Center.

“The Medical Assistance Program is helping dozens of Camden graduates access the qualifications they need for meaningful employment less than two years after receiving their high school diploma,” said Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard, Camden City School District. “This innovative, employer-led apprenticeship program is a model that we need to replicate in Camden to better prepare our students for success and to support the local economy.”

“This partnership is what Camden Rising is all about - all of us working together to build something greater,” said Dan Rhoton, Executive Director of HopeWorks N Camden. “As a youth development organization, we are committed to preparing Camden youth for careers in science, technology, engineering and math.”

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