

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2019

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Inver Hills Community College and Minnesota Veterans Home – Minneapolis partner on Certified Nursing Assistant Training Program

Minnesota faces a critical shortage of caregivers. In particular, nursing assistants and nursing aides are in short supply and the shortage is expected to become more severe as Baby Boomers continues to age and the demand for caregivers increases.

The shortage means facilities like the Minnesota Veterans Home (MVH) in Minneapolis need to use creative recruitment strategies to fill openings. While a May 2019 job fair recruited several new hires, the demand for Nursing Assistants continues.

“We are always looking for caring, compassionate and certified Nursing Assistants to join our team and help care for our Veterans,” said Simone Hogan, Senior Director – Healthcare, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. “The current economy is challenging for many employers and the low unemployment rate means job seekers have a choice in where they apply.”

That choice sparked the idea of introducing students to the MVH - Minneapolis campus while they completed training to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. “We are proud of our facility and the high-quality care we provide to our residents,” Hogan said. “By hosting the CNA training on site, we believe students will consider us first for employment once they complete their program.”

On October 22, MVH will begin the first session of CNA training at their Minneapolis facility through a partnership with Inver Hills Community College.

MVH has built a new state-of-the-art training facility where Inver Hills nursing faculty will offer the eight-week Nursing Assistant Certificate course. Those who finish the course and pass the State of Minnesota Competency Examination will then be ready to apply for a job. Hogan believes that the Minnesota Veterans Homes will be an attractive option. In addition to the Minneapolis site, Veterans Homes are located in Hastings, Fergus Falls, Luverne and Silver Bay.

“I am extremely excited to enter into this partnership between Inver Hills Community College and the Minnesota Veterans Homes. This course allows individuals to obtain a required credential to enter the healthcare field in a high demand area. The Nursing Assistant Course provides a firsthand glimpse into healthcare and can be completed in eight short weeks. Furthermore, this partnership allows for students



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to learn in a new education center here in Minneapolis that serves our Veterans,” said Christopher Metsgar, Dean of Allied Health and Nursing at Inver Hills.

Students may be eligible for reimbursement for tuition cost through the federally funded Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aide Program. Upon successful completion of the Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aide Program and after passing the State of Minnesota Competency Examination, students are eligible to apply for reimbursement from a Medicare/Medicaid-funded long-term care facility, when hired by that facility and provided the new employee meets all the requirements of the hiring facility.

Inver Hills has opened registration for the course that begins October 22 and ends December 16. The college plans to offer new cohorts every eight-weeks. Future cohorts will run January 13 to March 18 and March 23 to May 9. Summer 2020 dates are being finalized.

For more information, visit the Inver Hills Community College CNA Training page at:

<https://www.inverhills.edu/CNA/index.aspx>

About Inver Hills Community College

Inver Hills Community College (Inver Hills) is a place where students can get an affordable, high-quality education to launch their college degree in a supportive environment. With an enrollment of more than 5,000 full- and part-time students, the Inver Hills experience is defined by small class sizes and an engaged and active community that prepares students to succeed at a four-year college or to enter the workforce. Founded in 1970, the campus is located in Inver Grove Heights, less than 10 miles from Saint Paul, Minnesota.

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