

New programs meet health care needs

By DENISE MITCHELL

WCC offers a wide array of educational opportunities in the ever growing health care field, according to Lou Brown, Program Director for Medical Assisting, part of the Allied Health Program Division.

Brown, beginning her second year at WCC, said that 3 programs currently exist under her department: Medical Assisting Technology (a 2-year program), Phlebotomy (a 1-semester program), and Dialysis Technology (a 1-year program).

An anticipated program for fall 1999 is Medical Lab Technician (a 2-year program).

Graduates have employment opportunities in physicians' offices, health departments, hospitals, clinics, and renal dialysis facilities, she said.

The Medical Assisting program prepares students to be multi-skilled within a health care setting.

Graduates gain skills in lab, administrative, and clinical capabilities.

The Phlebotomy curriculum prepares students to obtain blood and other specimens for analysis.

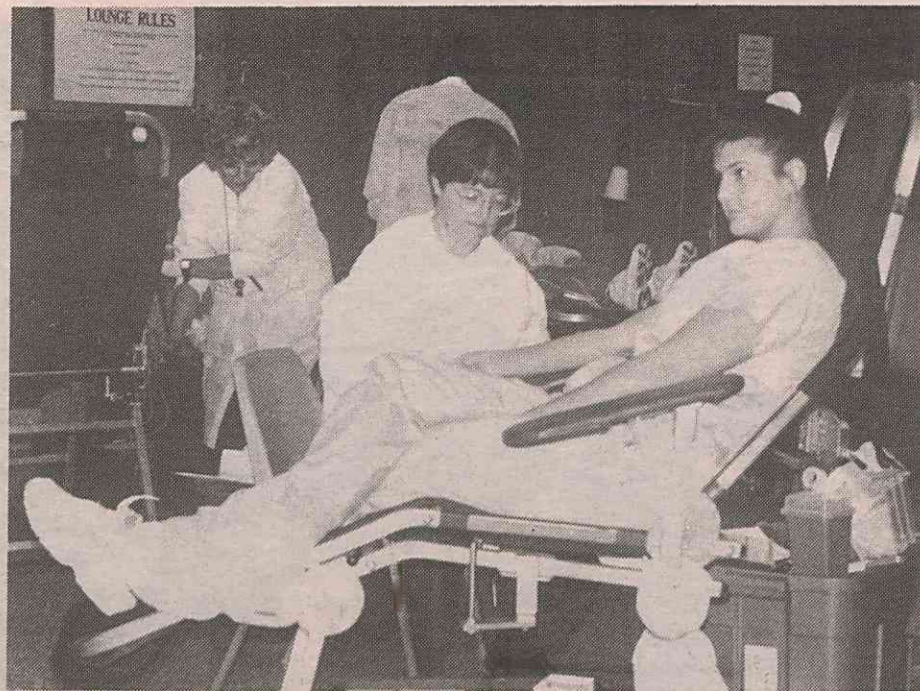
The Dialysis Technology curriculum prepares students to care for patients being treated for acute/chronic renal diseases.

The anticipated program of Medical Lab Technician will focus on studies and testing of blood, body fluids, and tissues.

Brown said that the lab is divided into 4 main departments: blood bank, hematology, coagulation, and microbiology.

Students of the program will develop skills in all of these areas.

Brown emphasized the current and continuous demand for qualified people in these fields with salaries in the \$7-\$9.00 an hour range for phlebotomists and dialysis technicians and higher for medical assistants.



Paula Hockett stares ahead as a Red Cross nurse prepares to insert a needle. PHOTO: CORRIE WEAVER

Donors exceed 45-pint goal

By CORRIE WEAVER

Eight of the 51 were first time donors.

On November 4, 1997, the annual blood drive was held in the Student Lounge of the LC Building.

From 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., students, staff, and local citizens totaling 51, volunteered their time to give blood.

Donors exceeded the 45 pint goal by 3 pints, according to Brenda Bellamy, blood director of the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Give the best Christmas present.
Give the gift of life to another.

Future Search

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After this phase of development, the 25-member Planning Council and the College Council will review the mission statements and look at ways to implement these into short and long range goals for WCC through 2008.

This review process takes place once a year, with 5 year environmental scans.

Future Search centered on students, educational programs, staff and resource development opportunities, administration, facilities, and community.

Thompson emphasized that everyone is part of the planning process.

The Councils are working together with a target date the spring of 1998.

Of the 59 community colleges, 8 were represented at the conference.

Foundation mini-grants

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Lewis also received a grant for 30 tickets to see The North Carolina Symphony at Mt. Olive College Hall already held on November 24, 1997.

Lewis stated that the money raised from ticket sales will pay for all 5th graders in North Carolina to see the symphony in a special spring concert.

A mini-grant was approved to help pay membership dues for Phi Theta Kappa nominees who could not afford them.

A digital camera and software are going to be purchased by instructor Banks Peacock using a mini-grant.

Peacock hopes the camera will be in use by the spring semester.

According to Peacock, the camera will be used by most of the computer classes and will allow students to explore using graphics in layouts.

On October 27-31, a mini-grant helped fund Alcohol Awareness Week on campus.

Activities were planned throughout the week to increase awareness of alcohol abuse.

According to counselor Sharon Price, about 230 students and faculty participated in the event.

Price also added that she hoped students would realize the importance of being responsible in their actions.



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