

FOCUS on Allied Health Programs

Associate in Applied Science (AAS)
Degrees in Allied Health

Dental Hygiene
Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Health Science
Medical Laboratory Technology
Medical Office Assistant
Physical Therapist Assistant
Radiography
Respiratory Therapy
Veterinary Technology

**Veterinary Technology
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Bergen Community College Receives High-Tech Workforce Excellence Grant

Bergen Community College received a High-Tech Workforce Excellence Grant from the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education. The \$1,305,441 grant will fund the High Technology Veterinary Technician Project through the New Jersey Consortium for Veterinary Technician Education. Bergen will serve as lead agency for the project.

Founded in 1998, the Consortium coordinates the A.A.S. Veterinary Technician degree program that is offered jointly through BCC, County College of Morris, and Sussex County Community College.

"The award will enable Bergen Community College to upgrade and enhance its A.A.S. degree to better meet workforce needs in the fields of biomedical/biotechnology research



Veterinary Technology Instructor, Robin Del Bove (right), overseeing second-year veterinary technology students (left to right) Deanna Bono, Anissa Tietjen, and Dawn Repsher clip the claws of an abandoned cat at the Bergen County Animal Shelter, where students participate in the laboratory component of Veterinary Nursing. The students work with a variety of animals including dogs and cats, farm animals, laboratory animals, and exotic pets.

and veterinary health care," said Dr. Judith K. Winn, President, Bergen Community College.

The funding will provide for a new high-tech Veterinary Surgical Center at Bergen, equipped with a state-of-the-art operating room, diagnostic imaging and ultrasound equipment, veterinary nursing endoscopes, exam tables, orthopedic equipment, and

wireless laptop computers for interactive television (ITV) instruction. An upgraded Laboratory Animal and Clinical Research Laboratory will be constructed at County College of Morris, and at Sussex County Community College, a Vertebrate Animal Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory will be built.

According to the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association, graduates of the Veterinary Technology program are in great demand by veterinarians.

(over)



Veterinary Technology Instructor, Tim Lasslett, shows second-year veterinary technology students Christen Turs (left) and Dawn Repsher how to position animals for x-rays in a diagnostic imaging class.

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The program has a 100 percent job placement rate, with a waiting list of New Jersey employers who seek its graduates.

“If there has been a single change which has brought better care to the pet population in New Jersey, it has been the training, education, and care provided by veterinary technicians,” said Dr. Stanley Bladek, in support of the Consortium’s program. These professionals are surgical aides, laboratory technicians, exam room nurses, radiographic and ultrasonographic technicians.

Bioscience and biotechnology companies also depend on responsible, skilled laboratory animal care. New Jersey is home to the headquarters of more

global pharmaceutical and medical technology companies than any other state or any other single country throughout the world.

Students in the program will acquire skills in the application of recently developed high-tech procedures of microinjection and transgenics research.

“The Vet Technology program is an academically challenging two-year course of training with a strong emphasis on practical application,” says Tim Lasslett, Veterinary Technology Instructor.

Second High-Tech Workforce Excellence Grant awarded to Bergen Community College in Two Years

Last year, the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education awarded Bergen a \$573,300 grant to enhance and expand the Surgical Technology certification program to better meet New Jersey’s growing demand for skilled workers in high-tech operating rooms. The Surgical Technology program at Bergen Community College is the larger of only two such programs in the state of New Jersey and the first to be nationally accredited. Major hospitals throughout New Jersey and the entire Eastern seaboard seek graduates of the Surgical Technology program, often months before graduation.

The grant funds provide a

simulated high-technology operating room to train students on the equipment and instruments used in medical facilities. The program also supports evening and weekend clinical experiences for working students, and advanced continuing professional education for surgical technologists in specialties identified by regional hospitals. The High-Tech Workforce Excellence Grant helps Bergen Community College increase the number of graduates of the Surgical Technology program, to fill the growing demand for highly skilled technicians and to provide high-pay, high-tech work opportunities for New Jersey citizens.



Surgical technology students Eliza Lievano, Jose Alvarado, Diana Alvarado and Elisabeth Belgione learning how to prepare the aseptic environment, assemble instruments and equipment, and aid surgeons during the operation.

Other Allied Health Career Opportunities Available at Bergen

Dental Hygiene

Dental Hygiene is a challenging career that offers students diverse employment opportunities providing care to patients in dental offices, hospitals, nursing homes, or schools.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Sonographers perform a wide variety of medical diagnostic tests using high-frequency sound equipment. Graduates find employment in hospitals, doctors’ offices, health maintenance organizations, clinics and medical imaging services.

Exercise Science

Students study fitness measurement, nutrition, exercise injury, exercise prescription, and the relationship of exercise to human health. Graduates are eligible for employment as a supervisor, manager or personal trainer in health clubs, health spas, fitness centers, and other organizations that have exercise facilities.

Health Science

Designed for certified or licensed practitioners in allied health disciplines such as dental assisting, dietetics, diagnostic medical sonography, licensed practical nursing, medical office assisting, radiography, respiratory technology, or surgical technology.

Medical Laboratory Technicians

Medical Laboratory Technicians (MLTs) play a critical role in collecting information needed to give the best care to an ill or injured patient. MLTs can practice in hospitals, for-profit laboratories, clinics, nursing homes, and public health facilities. Business and industry also have positions open for qualified medical laboratory technicians.

Physical Therapist Assistant

Students gain valuable knowledge in the areas of anatomy and physiology, kinesiology, orthopedics, neurology, modalities, pediatrics, and general medical conditions.

Pre-Chiropractic

Pre-Chiropractic graduates take courses required for applying to a Council on Chiropractic Education (C.C.E.) accredited chiropractic school in United States or Canada.

Radiography

Computerized tomography, diagnostic ultrasound, and magnetic imaging have become newer specialties along with radiation therapy, nuclear medicine, and special procedures. The diagnostic radiographer plays an important role in this rapidly growing medical field.

Respiratory Therapy

Respiratory Therapists perform breathing treatments for a variety of breathing disorders in hospital settings such as intensive care units, nurseries, emergency rooms, operating rooms or clinics. Graduates are eligible to take the examinations administered by the National Board of Respiratory Care.