



College News

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NWSC Celebrates ABHES Accreditation Renewal!

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On the afternoon of February 12, Programs Manager, Dr. Gayathree Raman, received the long-awaited and fantastic news that Northwest Suburban College was awarded accreditation renewal for its programs from the accrediting body, Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). The renewal period is for six years – until February, 2031. This announcement was greeted with congratulatory posts from Dr. Ali, Dr. Jay, Mr. Kareem Irfan, and Dr. Gold. Dr. Raman and all not-

ed that this achievement was truly a team effort. Faculty and staff devoted many hours after our 2024 pre-renewal ABHES site visit to insure compliance with ABHES recommendations. Much time was spent writing and proofing documents for thoroughness and accuracy. All noted as well, that this success moves the school forward in its efforts to expand enrollment and to offer additional in-demand programs for students seeking rewarding careers in the health sciences field.



Faculty and staff gather to celebrate ABHES renewal announcement

EBSCO Databases Now Available

Northwest Suburban College Library

[Catalog](#) [Calendar](#) [Links](#) [My Profile](#) [Patrons](#) [Circulation](#) [Pull List](#)

Library Information

This document provides basic information about the NWSC library and includes the librarian's email, as well as links to neighboring public libraries.

[Library information](#)

EBSCO databases

The following links will lead you to commercial databases provided by EBSCO. These databases are available to Illinois users through the Illinois State Library. In order to access each of these databases, you will need to enter your NWSC ID barcode.

[Learning Express](#)

Create your own username and password for this site, and access study materials and practice tests for the allied health certification exams (MA, DA, PhT). You can also upload your resume and search for jobs from this site.

[Health Source: Consumer Edition](#)

This rich collection of consumer health information provides access to full-text consumer health magazines and reference materials.

In previous editions of this *Newsletter*, I have discussed the ongoing efforts by Illinois librarians and legislators to make commercial databases freely accessible to Illinois residents. I am happy to inform you that this dream is now a reality. Students, faculty, and staff can now freely access a wide variety of databases in multiple subject areas via the NWSC library web site and *Populi*. From *Populi*, the databases appear in the library links under "EBSCO databases." I have separately listed those databases most

relevant to our programs. NWSC users must enter their ID number in order to access the databases. For students, this is the barcode number which appears on their ID badges. For staff and faculty members, the ID number appears in the browser bar when you visit your "Profile" page in *Populi*. The ID number used to log into the databases is a ten digit number, so faculty and staff must add the digits, "20" to the front of the eight digits of

their ID number in order to log in. If you need to know your ID number, just let me know, and I will send it to you.

As I have mentioned, these databases cover a wide variety of subject areas, from finding the next great book to read, to repairing the carburetor in your car. In addition, there are two databases faculty members should find useful for articles on teaching methods and resources: *ERIC* and the *Professional Development Collection*. Although I have created a list of the databases I think most appropriate for NWSC students,

(cont'd on page 3)

EBSCO databases (continued)

once logged in, you will have access to all of the available databases. For the most part, these databases contain full text articles from popular magazines and newspapers, as well as from academic journals and reference ebooks.

One of the most useful of these databases is entitled, *Learning Express*. This is a career oriented database that includes test preparation guides and practice tests for the MA, DA, and PhT certification exams. In order for students to avail themselves of these study and test materials, they must create their own

personal usernames and passwords. This allows students to take practice exams, receive feedback, and keep track of their progress. In addition, students can upload their resumes, letters of reference, as well as search for jobs and save their searches. This is an invaluable tool that allows students to keep all of their career preparation and job seeking information in one place. In addition, this information is available 24/7, and wherever students have Internet access.

Discussion of these databases and how to access them will be covered in the orientation sessions pro-

vided to new students.

Needless to say, I am very happy that the databases I spoke about for so long are now available for our benefit, so please start using these wonderful resources!



Two New Useful Information Sites

Ready.gov is a helpful web site with guidelines and advice for individual citizens, as well as businesses, to help prepare for all kinds of emergencies. These include natural disasters, as well as hazardous materials and cybersecurity episodes. General safety suggestions are provided, too.

GovInfo is a comprehensive site of U.S

government documents. It includes links to bills currently being considered by the U.S. House and Senate, Congressional committee reports, Supreme Court opinions, the *Federal Register*, the *Code of Federal Regulations*, the *U.S. Budget*, and more.

Career Service & Student Success Event

Program Manager, Dr. Raman, arranged for a representative from American Medical Technologists to visit the school and speak to students in all classes. Due to inclement weather, the session was held via Zoom. Ms. Beth Munro, a representative from AMT, presented helpful information to students about the benefits of membership in this organization. AMT is a not-for-profit association for allied health professionals. The organization provides support and a path for certification for Medical and Dental Associates, as well as other health professionals. Members have access to study resources and practice tests to prepare for certification exams, as well as the ability

to take the certification exam via the AMT site. Upon completing the online exam, students are immediately informed if they have passed and if so, can print out their certification from the AMT site. In addition, AMT offers certified members the courses and materials necessary to keep their certificates active and up to date. AMT has an app and a “Connect” site, which provides a great way to network with other professionals, especially for those just starting out in the field. This [link](#) provides helpful information from the AMT web site.



Dental Assistant students take in an exhibit at McCormick Place West, Chicago

DA Students attend Chicago Dental Society Meeting

Dental Assistant instructor, Bitu Keshavarzy, accompanied her students to the Midwinter Meeting of the Chicago Dental Society on February 20. Students learned about innovations in dental practice and technology.



It's Never Too Late

NWSC recently had the honor of enrolling the “most senior” student ever to attend the College. Meet Amelia De Los Reyes, a new Pharmacy Technician student. Amelia brings with her an amazing wealth of life and professional experience. Amelia owned her own pharmacy in Mindanao, Philippines. She and her family came to the United States in 1972, due to repressive political circumstances in the Philippines that made it impossible for business owners like Amelia to thrive. Amelia’s young family settled in Glenview, and she was able to

secure employment at a pharmacy in Chicago, then worked in the microbiology department at Baxter Corporation in Morton Grove. Other employment included Walgreens, Rexall, Lutheran General and Glenbrook Hospitals. In all of these positions, Amelia was working in the Pharmacy departments. She also worked for a large medical supply company.

Amelia enrolled in the Pharmacy Technician program in order to be able to take and pass the certification exam currently required of most Pharmacy Tech-

nician jobs. She brings to the classroom her knowledge and her wealth of experience. However, she sees the need to update her skills due to the changes in the profession with advances in technology and in the medical field in general. Needless to say, her fellow students will benefit from her expertise. Amelia is enthusiastically embracing this next step in her long and varied career working in the pharmacy sector.



Medical Escape Room Adventure

Students combined fun with learning on February 19, when they participated in a “Medical Crisis Escape Room” activity, designed by Albina Lyumanova, MBA intern. Student participants worked as a team as they investigated clues in order to diagnose and cure a patient’s condition. Clues were arranged in an orderly

sequence and each clue had to be unravelled before proceeding to the next one. When students needed help deciphering a clue, they turned to Albina, who asked them leading questions supplied by instructors. The conditions and diagnoses involved subjects familiar to both medical and dental assistant students. Students

enthusiastically worked together and were very happy and proud when their knowledge and teamwork led to a successful cure for their patient. Thank you, Albina, and thank you students, for your participation in this rewarding exercise!



Students working through clues with instructor, Ms. Figueroa, in the Medical Crisis Escape Room

Welcome, New Staff Members

Cynthia Stong (Cindy) is our new Director of Admissions, and comes to NWSC with extensive experience in college admissions. She was the Executive Director in charge of enrollment for online programs at Concordia University in River Forest. Prior to that, she was the Online Enrollment Manager and Adjunct Instructor at Indiana State University. She has also worked as the Senior Director of Admissions at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, and served as the International Admissions Counselor at the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago. Cindy is a very hands-on manager and tackles her various responsibilities with great enthusiasm and energy. We have already seen an increase in enrollments since Cindy began her tenure.

Sena Kinkle is a new instructor for our day session

Medical Assistant classes. Sena holds an AAMA Medical Assistant Certification and has ten years of clinical experience. Her specialties include pain management, dermatology, ambulatory care in surgical as well as home health care settings. In addition to her teaching responsibilities at NWSC, she works at La-Grange Hospital as a CMA. Sena is married and is a mother of three children. Her work ethic reflects her positive and optimistic attitude, as well as her flexibility in juggling her various responsibilities.

Alysia Givens has been promoted to Assistant Manager of Marketing for the College. Our new Admissions Associate is Katelyn Ward. Katelyn graduated last October from Arizona State University with a B.S. Degree in Psychology. She worked at a small bakery in high school and became manager there. She also has experience in educational settings. Katelyn grew up in this area and is glad to be

back in the Midwest to enjoy the change of seasons.

Albina Lyumanova is working at NWSC as an intern as part of her MBA program at Aurora University. Albina wants to gain experience in the business end of health care management, so will work in many departments such as recruitment and marketing. Albina's ultimate goal is medical school. Welcome, Albina, and we appreciate your expertise.

These important additions to the NWSC staff reflect our school's increased visibility in the community, as well as our efforts to expand enrollment and the programs we offer. These positive changes are managed and overseen by our Chief Operating Officer and Provost, Dr. Jay Shahed.



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