



College News

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NWSC Celebrates 2025 Graduates

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Northwest Suburban College held its fourteenth commencement ceremony on Saturday, August 23rd. Five Dental Assistant, twenty-one Medical Assistant, and eleven Pharmacy Technician students compose this year's graduation class. Eighteen students participated in the graduation ceremony in the school auditorium. The guest speaker was Ms. Nabeela Syed, who is serving her second term as Illinois State Representative for the 51st District. Born and raised in Palatine, Ms. Syed was first elected in 2022, as one of the youngest members elected to the Illinois General Assembly. It was fitting to have Representative Syed

speak to our students, as the Representative for Rolling Meadows, but also because healthcare is a major focus of her legislative work.

A highlight of the commencement ceremony was the speech given by this year's student speaker, Ms. Sydney Gonzalez. Sydney was an evening student of Ms. Delilah Figueroa's Medical Assistant class. In an emotional speech, Sydney praised Ms. Figueroa for challenging her, for helping her find her voice, and for giving her a new start in life. She thanked the school for providing the opportunity to succeed in the medical assisting field. Sydney's heartfelt speech captivated and moved her listeners.



Recent Graduates Pass Certification Exams

Congratulations to 2025 graduate, Grace Stavropoulos, who has successfully passed the credentialing exam for Certified Clinical Medical Assistant. Another 2025 graduate, Vladica Zdravkovic, passed the RMA (Registered Medical Assistant) exam during his externship. Following graduation, Vlad passed the CPT (Certified Phlebotomy Technician) exam. Grace and Vladica were both students of Dr. Khaja Ahmad and Ms. Sena Kinkle. Congratulations to Grace and to Vlad and to Ms. Sena Kinkle and Dr. Khaja Ahmad, their instructors!

In addition, Pharmacy Technician students, Christian Timpe and Julia Koza, passed the Certified Pharmacy Technician exam (CPhT). Congratulations to both of these students and to their instructor, Mr. Omar Abead. We wish all of these students success as they embark on their careers!



Grace Stavropoulos with Dr. Raman, Director of Student Services and Programs, at the commencement ceremony in August.

NWSC Welcomes New Staff and Instructor

Lauren Furth, our new Marketing and Administrative Associate, began work at NWSC in mid-August. Lauren has a Bachelor of Arts in Film and Digital Media from Loyola University of Chicago. Before coming to NWSC, she did freelance marketing work. Welcome, Lauren, and we are

happy you are here to share your marketing skills with our college community.

Ms. Amber Jacob is our new Tuesday/Thursday evening Medical Assistant instructor. Ms. Jacob is a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant, Certified Phlebotomy Technician, and a Certified

EKG Technician. She has over a decade of experience as a Medical Assistant and Patient Care Technician. She has diverse experience in the medical field, including specialties such as cardiology and GI care. Ms. Jacob eagerly shares her experience and enthusiasm with her students.

Campus Blood Drive in July

NWSC recently organized a school blood drive in cooperation with the Red Cross. The drive was held on Monday, July 21, from 12:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., in the school auditorium. Snacks were provided by the Red Cross for the donors and participants were also given coupons for McDonald's ice cream and Portillo's desserts. After participants donated blood, they could purchase lunch from a food truck in the parking lot of the school. The blood drive was a success and provided an opportunity for students to contribute to the community in an important way.



Red Cross employee draws blood from NWSC student

More Commencement Photos



Guest speaker, Representative Nabeela Syed, at 2025 graduation



Student speaker, Sydney Gonzalez



Two happy graduates

NWSC Joins *Find More Illinois* Library Network

Northwest Suburban College has recently joined the *Find More Illinois* library network for interlibrary loan purposes. Our membership allows students, faculty, and staff to borrow library materials from over eighty libraries throughout the state of Illinois. In turn, patrons from any of these other libraries can borrow materials from our library. There are currently over 8.5 million items in this network. Users can search multiple catalogs of participating libraries via a single interface, and request items for interlibrary loan. Among the participating libraries are large, academic

libraries, including the University of Illinois, Chicago, and Northern Illinois University. This service is provided entirely free of charge and made possible by our participation in the RAILS (Reaching Across Illinois Library System) network. The program is also sponsored by the Illinois State Library and is funded through revenue approved by the Illinois General Assembly. More information will follow as to how to search for and request items from libraries in this network. The *Find More Illinois* network greatly increases our access to library materials, and we are privi-

leged to be able to participate in such a worthwhile program.

Here is a link for a listing of participating libraries:

**[https://
www.findmoreillinois.org/libraries-fmi](https://www.findmoreillinois.org/libraries-fmi)**

Please see me if you need or would like to request materials from any of these participating libraries.



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