

## NEWS RELEASE

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### PTC introduces new associate degree in nursing mobility

PINE CITY, Minn. – Pine Technical College will offer an associate of science nursing degree beginning in the fall of 2011, when the first class will begin their studies. The new program seeks to address the growing nursing shortage in East Central Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. The program, designed for early to mid-career practical nurses who want to advance their education and careers as leaders in healthcare organizations and in community health settings, is a natural progression for LPNs who want to build on their education and work experience.

“By providing this program, first, we are helping to address workforce needs in this area,” says Krista Hoekstra, PTC Director of Nursing. “The program is ideal for current LPNs who wish to gain their RN credential; it’s essentially a third year of college for them – on top of the two-year practical nursing diploma program we have in place.” Hoekstra explains.

The program has been approved by the [Minnesota State College and University System](http://www.mnsc.edu) for more than a year, but the final stamp of approval just came from the Minnesota Board of Nursing this morning. PTC administrators and faculty and staff members have been building the program and working to gain approval and accreditation since Aug. 2010.

“The program is something we’re very excited to offer,” says PTC President Robert Musgrove. “It will not only help to address the shortage of nurses in our region, but it also will bring more opportunity for advancement among our population of LPNs. Bringing this program to PTC has been hoped for and in the works for a while,” Musgrove adds.

Because the program is designed for LPNs, admission is selective and requires a practical nursing diploma or its equivalent plus the license; documentation of current Health Care Provider CPR course; completion of a criminal background check; and, students will need to complete a physical and obtain certain immunizations. The program is comprised of both in-class lecture and an advanced clinical component.

“Our program is designed to do a lot!” says Hoekstra. “It will enhance retention of educated nurses in our community; it will prepare nurses for leadership roles; and, it will provide a pathway for nurses to pursue advanced credentials and degrees. Altogether, we’re very proud of our newly expanded nursing program, and we’re looking forward to educating a robust, strong cohort of nursing students this fall. We’re ready to educate the next generation of RNs,” Hoekstra adds.

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Classes start Aug. 22; however, applications to the new program are due by June 27. For specific program information and a list of courses, visit: [www.pinetech.edu/academics/catalog-and-programs/nursing-and-health-science/nursing-mobility](http://www.pinetech.edu/academics/catalog-and-programs/nursing-and-health-science/nursing-mobility).

Pine Technical College, established in 1965 and accredited by the [Higher Learning Commission](#), serves more than 1,000 students and awards certificates, diplomas and associate degrees. PTC's notable programs include accounting, American Sign Language, automotive technology, business administration, business technology, computer programming, computer science, early childhood development, gunsmithing technology, network administration, practical nursing, precision manufacturing/machining (CNC), public welfare financial worker, and many more.

PTC is a proud member of the [Minnesota State Colleges and Universities](#) system, which is comprised of 32 state universities and community and technical colleges serving the higher education needs of Minnesota. The system serves about 277,000 students per year in credit-based courses and an additional 157,000 students in noncredit courses. PTC is accepting applications for new students in all programs; fall courses will start Aug. 22. For more information, call 320-629-5100.

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