

NEWS RELEASE

July 9, 2010

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The health care worker shortage you haven't heard about

PINE CITY, Minn. – You've likely heard that our health care community is at risk of facing great worker shortages due to an increase in retirees, fewer workers, and a growing demand for services. According to [Healthcare Labor Shortages: Get the Facts](#), Minnesota will likely experience vacancies in registered nursing—the largest employment group in health care—of over 9,200 by 2015. This type of news report often focuses on nurses, but the nursing shortage isn't the only alarming part of the story. Similar forecasts are anticipated in almost all health care programs including laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, home health aide, respiratory therapy and nursing assistants.

In fact, Jon Linnell, CEO of North Valley Health Center, Warren, stated, "If we lose just one x-ray or laboratory tech we may have to close our doors. The supply and demand problem is especially severe in Greater Minnesota where there is a very limited supply of professionals in the face of an increasing demand."

Learning this, Pine Technical College jumped into action and partnered with Lake Superior College to bring a Medical Laboratory Technician A.A.S. degree to the Pine City area for the fall of 2010. This new program is funded in part by a grant awarded under the President's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grants, as implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. Interested students should act now; this program will not be accepting new students next year.

The Medical Laboratory Technician program has never been available so close to home. "Designed especially for students in our area, this unique partnership with Lake Superior College brings program courses to our campus, delivered in a convenient and flexible format," says Nancy Mach, Pine Technical College Dean of Student Affairs.

A Medical Laboratory Technician performs routine tests in all areas of the clinical laboratory searching for the presence, absence, extent, and cause of diseases. Qualifications of this highly skilled individual include being dedicated and self-motivated with a keen commitment to accuracy and precision to ensure quality patient outcomes.

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This ever-changing, ever-challenging career offers unlimited opportunities for employment in a variety of laboratory environments, including hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, research universities, and even sales! Plus, this program is designed to transfer smoothly into a bachelor's degree program so you can advance your career with continued education at any time.

The structure of this program is a combination of general education and support courses; online lectures; hands-on, face-to-face student laboratory sessions; and placement of students in a hospital or clinic internship experience. You'll complete your A.A.S. degree in just 3 years – and have industry experience under your belt! To make it even more accessible, there are generous scholarships of up to \$2,000 per semester available to Medical Laboratory Technician students in addition to other forms of financial aid.

For more information about the Medical Laboratory Technician program, available scholarships and financial aid, or any of Pine Technical College's programs, call 320-629-5100 or visit www.pinetech.edu. Applicants may also apply online.



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