

MAKING THE Connection

TO
Career Technical Education

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Internships prepare techs for retail and hospital pharmacies

There is a reason that most health care programs require internships of their students.

When the wellness of a patient is at stake, there is no substitute for practical experience. And in Macomb's Pharmacy Technician program, students get 100 hours of it.

"If I hadn't taken the program at Macomb, I would never have been able to work in a hospital pharmacy," says Maria Daniel, who interned with McLaren Macomb in Mount Clemens and was hired there full time after she graduated. "In the hospital, I am taking calls from doctors and nurses. You feel like you are really saving a life. I walk in the hospital every day and think 'another day, another difference.'"

Macomb's Pharmacy Technician program is offered through its Center for Health Careers, part of the college's Workforce and Continuing Education division.

It consists of a 60-hour Ambulatory (retail) Pharmacy Technician course and a 32-hour Institutional (hospital) Pharmacy Technician course. These are taken prior to the 100-hour internship at either a retail or hospital pharmacy.

The program also provides Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam Preparation to help students obtain the required licensure to work as a pharmacy technician in Michigan.

Those who are already certified as a retail pharmacy technician, may be eligible to take only the



COURTESY PHOTO

Maria Daniel graduated from Macomb's Pharmacy Technician program and is now employed in the hospital pharmacy at McLaren Macomb in Mount Clemens.

hospital course, as was the case with Daniel.

"I really wanted to take something that I already knew about so I could start working as soon as possible," says Daniel, who had been a pharmacy technician in her native Denmark before moving to

Macomb County with her husband, a Michigan native. "I really received a lot of new information and I especially liked the teacher (David Valentine). He made the program. It was like a whole package - they explained everything and set up my internship."

First nine students graduate from Tesla automotive training program

The first class of nine students in the Tesla START program for automotive service technicians offered at Macomb graduated this month, and seven of them are already assured of full-time employment at a Tesla service center. It's one of the reasons Holger Ekanger welcomed the electric vehicle manufacturer to Macomb's South Campus.

"Tesla is committed to hiring and developing top talent from around the world," said Ekanger, Macomb's director of Engineering and Advanced Technology, Workforce and Continuing Education, of the electric vehicle manufacturer. "This partnership is providing Macomb students with the skills and expertise to be successful Tesla service technicians and grow their careers at service center locations across the United States."

The Tesla START program was introduced this fall at Macomb, one of only five colleges to offer it in the U.S.

Intended for current automotive service tech-

nicians or those about to graduate from an automotive technology program, Tesla will also consider individuals with experience in industry or the military for the training.

Tesla provides the curriculum, instructors and electric vehicles for the intense 12-week training.

The student interns are paid above minimum wage by Tesla while in the program, allowing them to more than recoup the up-front \$1,500 school training fee.

Upon successful completion, Tesla will assist students in job placement at one of its service centers across the country, with three each in nearby Illinois and Ohio.

Due to restrictions in state law, Michigan only has mobile service at this time.

"The employer engagement in this program is very unique," said Ekanger, "from providing the instructional resources, including six Tesla vehicles, and paid internships, to ongoing evaluation of students and subsequent interviews and job place-

ment. These are all key components ensuring student success."

In offering the Tesla training, Macomb joins community colleges in California, North Carolina and Washington. When scouting for a Midwest training site, it was a recommendation from one of those schools, Rio Hondo College, which led Tesla to Macomb.

"Rio Hondo has a strong program in electric vehicles and we had worked with them before through our Center for Advanced Automotive Technology," said Joseph Petrosky, Macomb's dean of Engineering and Advanced Technology. "That recommendation resulted in conversations with Tesla and to Macomb being chosen as a training site. Now our students are benefiting from a chance to earn while they learn, a job opportunity pipeline and a foothold in the future of the automotive industry."

For more information about the Tesla START program and to apply, visit tesla.com/careers/tesla-start.

Demand on the rise for health information managers

Gone are the days of handwritten charts and overstuffed file folders. The management of patients' records and important health information requires precise technological skills, creating an in-demand niche for those interested in a behind-the-scenes career in health care.

"Health information management professionals are highly trained in the latest information management technology applications and understand the workflow in any health care provider organization, from large hospital systems to a private physician practice," said Kristin Dunsmore, Macomb Health Information Technology faculty. "They ensure that a patient's health information and records are complete, accurate and protected."

Health information technology provides an entry point for students who would like to work in health care but are not interested

in direct patient contact.

That describes Tara Madej to a tee. Madej graduated with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Health Information Technology (HIT) from Macomb last year after switching her major from nursing.

"I became interested in health care because of some personal health issues, but found that nursing just wasn't for me," says Madej, who now works mostly from home managing patient data for health care providers. "One of my advisors recommended that I go into health information technology and it has been perfect. I love it."

Married and working full time, Madej appreciated that she could take all of her Macomb HIT courses online. She also appreciated the practical experience that Dunsmore, who previously worked in the HIT field, brought to the classroom.

"She's amazing. She taught us beyond what we learned in the textbook," says Madej, "and she helped everyone get through the program."

Although they do not have direct contact with patients, Dunsmore impresses upon her students that the service they provide is indispensable to patients, as well as the entire health care community.

"Health information management professionals affect the quality of patient care at every touch point in the health care delivery cycle," said Dunsmore. "They work on the classification of diseases and treatment to ensure that they are standardized for clinical, financial and legal uses in health care. Health information professionals care for patients by caring for their medical data, and they can expect to stay in high demand as the health sector continues to expand."

Helping students take flight in the right career

Since last year, Macomb's Career Services Department has been inviting students on field trips once a month during the fall and winter semesters to introduce them to a variety of careers. On the most recent trip to Selfridge Air National Guard Base in October, Cara Anne Smith tried a fighter pilot's job on for size.

"Sitting in an actual cockpit was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," says Smith, a marketing major at Macomb. "My experience at Selfridge was incredible. It was really exciting to actually see what it is like to be in the military and hearing about many different jobs - from flying airplanes to fixing them."

The approximately three-hour trips are free and open to all current Macomb students, with transportation to and from campus provided. Since they were first introduced, more than 125 students have taken advantage of the field trips.

Last fall and winter, students toured Shinola and Skidmore Studio in Detroit, Jimmy John's Field in Utica and Macomb County Emergency Management, Communications and Technology Center in Mount Clemens. The remaining two trips this semester will be to Global Advanced Products in Chesterfield Township and Eckhart - Advanced Technology Center in Warren.

"The students can see different work environments, talk with the staff about their career paths and ask questions," says Brooklyn Frontiera, Career Services coordinator at Macomb. "Students get excited for their future and can see themselves working there. It makes them energized about their education."

While Smith was interested to learn about the diversity of jobs Selfridge of-



COURTESY PHOTO

Emma Alexandra Debeaussaert, a Macomb student, inside the cockpit of an F-16 Fighting Falcon simulator in the Selfridge Military Air Museum at Selfridge Air National Guard Base during a First Friday Field Trip in October.

fers, one of her tour mates had a single-minded purpose for going on the tour.

"I want to be a pilot," said Derek Barnes, who intends to transfer to Wayne

State University and earn a bachelor's degree in engineering before applying for the Air Force's flight school. "Sitting in the flight simulator was better than I thought."

Parents, students, guardians, family and others: Register to attend this FREE event!

Explore Careers in Manufacturing & Technology

Presented by Macomb Community College in affiliation with AUTO STEAM DAYS Dec. 5-6, 2018

Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018 • 5:30-8pm
Macomb Community College • Sports & Expo Center
14500 E. 12 Mile Road, Warren, MI 48088

Connect with subject matter experts:

- Learn about job skills that are in high demand
- Hear from recent grads who found good-paying career employment
- Meet local businesses and learn who employers are hiring
- Discover the career pathway that's right for you
- Learn about apprenticeship programs including the Michigan Apprenticeship Program Plus (MAP+)
- Explore internships and work-based learning

Register Today! www.macomb.edu/MFGevening
Questions? Call 586.445.7117

Center for Advanced Automotive Technology (C.A.A.T.) | Macomb Community College (Discover, Connect, Advance) | MISD

Presented by Macomb Community College, in collaboration with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and Manufacturing (STEAM) partners.

Anchor Bay Schools
Armada Area Schools
Centerline Public Schools
Chippewa Valley Schools
Clintondale Community Schools
Eastpointe Community Schools
Fitzgerald Public Schools
Fraser Public Schools
Lake Shore Public Schools
Lakeview Public Schools
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools
Mount Clemens Community Schools
New Haven Community Schools

For more information about CTE, contact Shannon Williams at 586.228.3488 or swilliams@misd.net



Macomb Intermediate School District
44001 Garfield Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038
586.228.3300

For more information about the MISD and the 21 school districts, go to www.misd.net

Richmond Community Schools
Romeo Community Schools
Roseville Community Schools
South Lake Community Schools
Utica Community Schools
Van Dyke Public Schools
Warren Consolidated Schools
Warren Woods Public Schools

It is the policy of the MISD that no person on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which the MISD is responsible.