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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cisco College Health Science Programs Assist in Building Abilene Healthcare Workforce

Abilene, Texas - January 28, 2022 - While the nation as a whole is experiencing a shortage in healthcare workers, Cisco College through its Health Science programs is assisting in filling the gaps in the local healthcare workforce.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there will be far more registered nurse jobs available than any other profession in 2022. More than 500,000 registered nurses are anticipated to retire and the Bureau projects the need for 1.1 million new registered nurses.

Cisco College health sciences programs help to alleviate the strain on the local healthcare workforce. The programs consist of Pharmacy Technology, Respiratory Therapy, Surgical Technology, Medical Assisting, Vocational Nursing, and the RN bridge program for students to earn an Associate in Applied Science degree in nursing.

In 2021 the Cisco College health sciences graduated 3 Pharmacy Technicians, 6 Respiratory Therapists, 8 Surgical Technicians, 9 Medical Assistants, and 58 Vocational Nurses. Another 47 students completed an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing. The majority of these graduates now work in the Abilene area or are applying for jobs here.

“The Cisco College health science programs impact our healthcare industry by providing competent healthcare professionals to help build our local workforce,” said Jeanette Vincent, Director of Health Sciences at Cisco College. “Our students stay local upon

graduation because they have built their lives here. Our programs and professors provide them the knowledge and skills necessary to enter into a healthcare career.”

Cisco College professors and program directors also maintain professional relationships with doctor’s offices and clinics. Maintaining these key relationships provides a bridge for new graduates seeking employment, but it also helps the local employers to quickly fill key positions.

“I keep an open line of communication with some of the area clinics and their managers,” said Dawn Chism, Director of the Cisco College Medical Assisting Program. “Typically the students get hired during their externships. Since the clinics are in great need of Medical Assistants, they tend to call me asking for graduates.”

She added that “some students who graduated were already working as Medical Assistants or did their externship via online simulations due to the pandemic.”

Especially needed in the healthcare field are respiratory therapists. “The longer the pandemic continues to go on, the demand for Respiratory Therapists continues to grow,” said Tracy Talley, Director of the Cisco College Respiratory Care program. “Respiratory Therapists are essential and key components of the health care team to treat the most critical patients impacted by COVID-19.”

“The reason why the need for Respiratory Therapists is so great right now is due to the high assessment skills and critical thinking skills that this profession requires,” she said. “The demand for Respiratory Therapists is growing at a rapid rate and will continue to grow. The skills that Respiratory Therapists offer the healthcare system are very unique, valuable, and essential for our healthcare system.”

More information about the Cisco College Health Sciences, degrees, and certificate programs can be found at Cisco.edu. Enrollment for the second 8-week session of the spring semester is open now.

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About Cisco College

Since first admitting students in 1940, Cisco College has offered programs and activities intended to encourage lifelong learning and enhance the quality of life in the communities it serves.

As a member of the Texas state system of publicly supported institutions of higher education, Cisco College maintains an open-door admissions policy and provides an array of learning, skill development and life experiences to motivate and challenge students. Classes are offered at two primary locations, Cisco and Abilene, in addition to several other off-campus sites. The College strives to maintain a student/faculty ratio which facilitates close interaction between faculty and students.

Cisco College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award Associate level degrees.