

## Muskogee difference healthcare scholarhip

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November 15, 2017

Excellence in Action Award Committee Advance CTE 8484 Georgia Avenue Suite 320 Silver Spring, MD

Dear Excellence in Action Award Committee:

Please consider Indian Capital Technology Center's Nursing Transition program for the Excellence in Action Award. Eastern Oklahoma experiences a significant nursing shortage at all levels. Through creativity, partnership and collaboration with other schools and community partners, ICTC champions efforts to expedite opportunities for local high school students to become well-trained members of the local nursing workforce.

ICTC's innovative program offers a clear pathway for high school students to efficiently and quickly complete the education and clinical experience required to be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN examination and work as an LPN within six months of high school graduation. This program also provides a clear ladder for students who wish to continue their education and pursue an Associate's Degree in Nursing (RN) through the Connors State College Nursing program.

As the director of the Muskogee Difference Healthcare Scholarship, I had the opportunity to work with a number of students from the ICTC Nursing Transition program who chose to continue their education and sought scholarship assistance in doing so. I welcomed the opportunity to promote the CSC scholarship program to the ICTC Nursing Transition students.

ICTC and CSC also formalized the nursing career pathway from high school, to LPN to RN, through the federal Carl Perkins grant program designed to aid the efficient progression for students from high school, through pertinent education, and into career. CSC offers a career ladder pathway that enables students who receive practical nursing education from ICTC to receive credit for two semesters of the four semester nursing program. Again, this partnership allows students to continue their education in an efficient and productive way.

Also, as executive director of the nonprofit Eastern Oklahoma Health Care Coalition, I appreciated the opportunity to partner with ICTC and the Nursing Transition program to inspire and motivate middle and high school students to consider health care education and careers. Through hands-on, practical skills demonstrations and ample enthusiasm, the Nursing Transition students had a significant and positive influence on the students participating in the summer MASH Camps.

Thank you for your consideration of ICTC's Nursing Transition program for the Excellence in Action award.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wade Berry

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Nov. 13, 2017

TO: Excellence in Action Award Oklahoma State Career Tech

RE: LPN Transitions Program Indian Capital Technology Center

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of support for the LPN Transitions Program at ICTC. Since its inception we have served as a partner in a number of ways.

These students are provided the opportunity to third ride with our responders. We serve as the training base for the American Heart Association CPR for Health Care Professionals and have trained the instructors who then train their students. Each year we come to the Muskogee campus to talk about emergency medicine. One of our staff serves on the advisory board for the program.

This is a quality nursing program and we are proud to serve as a partner and to recommend them for this award. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely;

Mechele Cruz,

NREMT-I, Community Relations Coordinator

## Arkansas Verdigris Valley Health Centers, Inc.

"Providing affordable and high quality medical and dental care for you and your family"

To whom it may concern,

While I was employed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, I had the opportunity to work with the Transitions Program at Indian Capital Technology Center. I was the Local Emergency Response Coordinator. I was also in charge of the Medical Reserve Corps program in Wagoner and Muskogee Counties. A few years ago, I was asked to speak to the Transitions students about the MRC. At the time, ICTC had been working on MRC projects but they wanted to make their projects count as volunteer time for Oklahoma's MRC. After the presentation, I was able to assist some of the students sign up for the Oklahoma MRC. Only those who were 18, at the time, could qualify. But, the younger students still volunteered their time for the program.

The students were a great help to the Wagoner County Preparedness Expo committee. Some of the students learned how to assemble a Western Shelter. The Western Shelters are a large, sturdy, military style tent that may be used for office space, meeting rooms, command centers, or even hospitals in times of emergencies. The students also helped pass out information about the MRC to recruit more volunteers.

Another project that the students helped with was collecting portable pet crates or kennels for animal rescue missions. Some of their collections were actually used during some flooding in East Central Oklahoma. The pet supplies are also used to help with families who may not have had any other place for a pet after an extreme weather event.

I now work for a federally qualified health center. We serve the underserved in our communities. As we begin to grow as a company, and look to hire staff, I often think about those students who I had the pleasure to serve with in the MRC. ICTC's students who enter the program are the kind of LPNs who I want to hire, or would recommend be hired by any health center. The students in that program seem to have the willingness to work hard and show compassion at the same time. Those skills are not something they learn in that program. Those skills are something that they have already had. Most of them enter that program because they feel a calling to be there. Those qualities are what we look for in a candidate or newly hired employee. ICTC does a great job of producing quality students who are prepared to enter many different medical facilities.

I am proud to offer this letter of support for the LPN Transitions program at ICTC.

Thank you,

Roger E. Schilling, M.Ed., NR-Paramedic

**Chief Compliance Officer** 



