Allied Health Careers at LCMC

Externship Overview

It is quite surprising how many different career paths there are within the hospital. Students are under the impression that careers in the hospital are for doctors or nurses only. However, there are several other career paths available. There are many allied health careers, but there are also many options outside of allied health such as business, culinary/dietary or engineering.

Key Takeaways

- Allied Health Careers are largely stable careers, where advancement is possible
- The majority of those employed in allied health careers found out about these careers through their personal connections to people who needed the services (e.g., home respiratory services for young child)
- Hospitals are focusing on hiring RNs with BSN as opposed to LPN or RN with ASN.
- Utilize partnerships, such as YouthForce NOLA, NOCC, and community colleges to best prepare students

Overview

The best preparation for a career within the hospital is exposure. Students need to know what opportunities exist and what training is involved to prepare for those opportunities. Exposure should start freshman year so that students can begin to think about what field they may possibly be interested in. Then, in junior/senior year, students can begin taking preliminary classes such as medical terminology or best privacy practices, or students can begin internships to get real-life hands-on experience for resume and skills building.

How We Can Prepare Our Students Now!

- Emphasize that the medical field is more than Doctors and Nurses, and expose students to the vast opportunities in the field
- Teach both Technical Skills (e.g., Medical Terminology, Anatomy & Physiology) as well as Soft Skills (e.g., the ability to communicate sensitive information tactfully, time management, critical thinking)
- Core teachers and CTE teachers should work collaboratively on planning experiences and PD opportunities