WITC launches new program to accommodate aging population

To deliver top-notch care for a healthier America, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College is announcing the new gerontology-aging services professional program.

Concerns of a healthcare services shortage will be met by the 78 million baby boomers nationwide who will be 65 or older by the year 2030. To accommodate the fastest growing segment of our country’s population, it is increasingly important for innovative educational programs that train our workforce to cater to the aging population. The gerontology-aging services professional program at WITC will prepare the workforce for this tidal wave of baby boomers.

“In many ways, this program is both ahead of its time yet long overdue, and it has generated much community support and interest across our district,” said Laura Wassenaar, divisional dean of family and consumer services with WITC. “This program was created to address the multifaceted needs and interests of both service providers and families and applies to a variety of people and professions.”

The gerontology-aging services professional program will be offered at all four WITC campuses. Designed to fit into busy life schedules, the program will blend online and in-person experiential learning with community-based fieldwork. It is ideal for people entering the job market or choosing to enhance their current careers in service delivery or leadership roles with the gerontology field.

“The curriculum was designed to explore the many aspects and dimensions of aging that touch all of our lives in some way, both professionally and personally,” said Wassenaar. “Potential students may choose
to take one class or complete the entire degree, with multiple opportunities for seamless entry and exit.”

Upon graduation, students will be prepared to work in a variety of settings and positions with older adults. Graduates from the gerontology-aging services professional program could assume roles in community and non-profit agencies, counseling centers, group homes, hospitals, senior centers and more. Potential job titles could include: aging services provider, geriatric care specialist, benefits coordinator, activity/recreation coordinator and program planner with many opportunities that are yet to be revealed.

To register or for more information visit www.witc.edu/gero or call 1.800.243.9482

Ranked fourth best two-year college in the nation by Washington Monthly magazine, WITC serves the educational and career needs of more than 25,000 residents of Northwestern Wisconsin each year. With multiple campuses, WITC offers career-focused associate degree programs, technical diplomas, short-term certificates, customized business training, and a wide array of courses for personal or career enrichment. WITC is a member of Wisconsin Technical College System. WITC is an Equal Opportunity/Access/Affirmative Action/Veterans/Disability Employer and Educator.

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration has awarded $19,999,991 under the TAACCCT grant program to be shared among the 16 colleges within the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS). 100% of this project equaling $4,898,800 of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College’s portion of this grant is being financed with Federal money. This is an equal opportunity program. Assistive technologies are available upon request and include Voice/TTY (711 or 800-947-6644).

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