

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING / WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 7, 2024
(Approved December 19, 2024)

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landscape of healthcare education, focusing on the growing demand for skilled professionals, challenges in the sector, and new opportunities for career advancement. As California grapples with a significant shortage in its healthcare workforce, it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet the demand for trained professionals. The San Diego region alone is expected to see a 30 percent increase in healthcare job openings over the next decade. In response to this demand, MiraCosta College is dedicated to preparing students for entry-level positions in the healthcare field, equipping them with the skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly evolving industry.

Rich Dicker provided a detailed overview of the Medical Administrative Professional program, highlighting six certificates of achievement available to students. He proudly shared the impressive exam pass rates of MiraCosta's programs, which exceed national averages. For example, MiraCosta's Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) cohorts boast a 93 percent pass rate, well above the national average of 76 percent. Similarly, the college's pass rate for the Certified Billing and Coding Specialist exam is 84 percent, compared to the national average of 77 percent. Additionally, 80 percent of Medical Assistant students are employed within 90 days of completing the program, showcasing the high demand for graduates in this field.

To address the need for more healthcare workers, MiraCosta has also established a dual enrollment pathway with Oceanside Unified School District (OUSD), allowing high school students to access medical assistant training and get a head start on their careers. Currently, 38 students are dual enrolled in these courses, which further expands access to high-quality healthcare education.

Emily Mercuri presented an overview of the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Home Health Aide (HHA) programs. MiraCosta offers five CNA cohorts annually, with each cohort completing an eight-week program, leading to approximately 90 completions each year. Notably, MiraCosta students have achieved a perfect 100 percent pass rate on both the written and skills exams for CNA certification. This remarkable achievement is supported by grant funding that covers testing fees and other financial assistance to ensure students can complete their programs without additional financial barriers.

Michelle Odum, Program Director for the CNA and HHA programs, discussed employment trends in healthcare, highlighting the projected 25-50 percent growth in jobs over the next decade. This growth creates significant opportunities for career advancement, including the ability to "stack" credentials—acquiring multiple certifications to enhance employability and earnings potential. MiraCosta's strong reputation within the healthcare industry and with community partners further strengthens the value of its programs for career

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Raye Clendening
Vice President

Sunita V. Cooke, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President