

The SCHOOL OF NURSING Celebrates Its' 50th Year



The School of Nursing at Cuyahoga Valley Career Center's history is linked to The Parma School of Practical Nursing that was established in 1963. At that time the nursing school was created as the result of a joint venture between the Parma City School District and Parma Community General Hospital, to serve the educational needs of Cuyahoga, Medina, Summit and surrounding counties. This certificated post-secondary education clock-hour program was initially operated under the Parma City School District.

In July 2002, The Parma School of Practical Nursing moved to Cuyahoga Valley Career Center and became part of that district. The 40th class of The School of Nursing opened on August 20, 2002 as The School of Nursing at CVCC, located at 8001 Brecksville Rd. in Brecksville, Ohio.

Originally the school offered only a full-time 9-month program beginning in late summer. However, in October 2003 a part-time evening and weekend program was initiated, and the following year a part time, daytime program opened to meet the growing demand for practical nursing education. These part-time programs are a mirror image of the full-time 9-month program, extending over an 18 month period to make classes convenient for those who need to work while attending nursing school.

Classroom instruction takes place at CVCC with clinical instruction in a variety of acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other contracted organizations. Students work under the direct supervision of a certified R.N. instructor and are offered a wide variety of experiences in caring for individuals within the health care system. For 50 years this nursing program has experienced success because of its dedicated faculty and rich clinical experiences. It is proud to partner with local nursing homes and long term care facilities along with Metro Health Medical Center, Southwest General Health Center, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation (CCF), and University Hospital Health Systems (UHHS). The "hands-on" clinical experiences account for approximately 53% of the total 1200 clock hours. The School of Nursing has enjoyed a long history of graduating well educated, highly skilled practical nurses who have found jobs and become valued employees in many local hospitals and health care facilities in Northeast Ohio.

Additional enrichment and observation experiences include exposure to numerous community-based services such as home care services, emergency department, special education programs, child and adult day care, as well as visits to numerous specialty departments and units within the major hospital complex. Under the guidance and direction of faculty and nursing service preceptors, the student nurse is offered an opportunity to experience the real world of working as a practical nurse.

Innovative hands-on learning sets CVCC's program apart from others. Pattie Mandula, RN, MBA/HCM, BSN, Supervisor of the Nursing School has implemented new and innovative learning styles and activities in the classroom. One of the activities is a Sensory Deprivation Lab which gives the student a firsthand look and feel of the aging patient. The faculty alters the students' sense of feel, sight and hearing which will allow the student to understand what it is like to age. The faculty may blindfold the students, place earmuffs on the students, and then give tasks for the students to complete. Some students may be told they can only use one arm or they have to complete a certain task quickly. It is this type of learning experience that helps CVCC's School of Nursing graduate well-prepared nurses who are ready to meet the demands of their career.

Upon graduation the student receives a certificate in practical nursing, and is eligible to sit for the NCLEX-PN State Board Examination. Upon successful completion of the examination, the Board of Nursing issues a license to practice as a practical nurse. Each successful candidate is also IV and medication certified. Cuyahoga Valley Career Center's School of Nursing is approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing, Ohio Board of Regents, and accredited by North Central Association. Students who wish to continue their nursing education are eligible to receive college credit for the education completed at CVCC.