

EMT program works toward accreditation

Kirkville Area Technical Center works towards obtaining full accreditation

BY DANIELLE WALDRON
Assistant News Editor
index.newseditor@gmail.com

Kirkville Area Technical Center and the Adair County Ambulance District were given a Letter of Review from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for Emergency Medical Services Professions earlier this month for the paramedic program. The letter is an integral step toward attaining full accreditation.

KATC and ACAD are seeking accreditation for their EMS program that Kirkville High School students and adults throughout the community can take, said Vicki Cooper, Community Education Coordinator at KATC. Various community organizations work with the program to provide experience for the students.

Cooper said the Letter of Review Status simply means the EMS program between KATC and ACAD has complied with the standards set forth by the Committee.

"Starting in January, in order for a student to sit for their paramedic exam, they have to have graduated from an accredited program or one that was operating under this Letter of Review," Cooper said. "That is what we have right now and we will continue to work on the full accreditation."

Cooper said students who want to take the paramedic classes must first obtain their Emergency Medical Technician license. Licenses are given once the student has completed the EMT training, she said. After the student becomes a licensed EMT, the student can begin paramedic training, which Cooper said includes classroom experience, didactic and lab training, clinical experiences and an internship.

Upon completion of the paramedic training, the student takes a national exam, she said.

The national practical skills exam for paramedics is administered by either Missouri Emergency Medical Services or the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, said Troy Mihalevich, ACAD Director of EMS Education and KATC Lead Instructor of EMS training. He said the test assesses various skills such as patient assessment and proper IV usage through a series of 13 practical assessment stations.

He said the EMT program takes about eight months and the paramedic training program takes two years. Students do clinical work at ACAD and Northeast Regional Medical Center, Mihalevich said.

"We have a pretty strong partnership," Mihalevich said.

An example of this partnership was the donation of two human patient simulators, said David Patterson, A.T. Still University Director of Simulation Assessment. He said ATSU donated the simulators to ACAD during fall 2011 and they are now used for classroom practice and summative assessments.

Patterson said the METI simulators help students at KATC learn how to best approach different situations such as basic life support, advanced cardiac life support and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"Troy has been working hard to determine the best way to utilize the simulators," Patterson said. "If the simulators are used to their full potential, there is no end to how the students could help ACAD — these simulators can only enhance the learning experience. You are only bound by your imagination."

About 85% of ACAD employees have received training from the program, Mihalevich said.

Cooper said classes are available for adults and students and have a capacity of 15 students.



Danielle Waldron/Index
NEMO Heart Health board member Jane Wheeler gives an AED demonstration at Hy-Vee last Friday. Kelli Hunsicker, NEMO Heart Health Chair of Media Fundraising, said. NEMO Heart Health currently has over 70 AEDs in the Kirkville area.

Money raised for heart health

BY DANIELLE WALDRON
Assistant News Editor
index.newseditor@gmail.com

The Northeast Missouri Heart Health Corporation partnered with Northeast Regional Heart Center and local businesses for the second-annual "Rock the Town Red" event in Kirkville on Feb. 21.

The event recognized Heart Month during February and sought to promote cardiovascular health.

NEMO Heart Health put red ribbons around lampposts and sold red T-shirts to businesses wishing to participate. All of the proceeds for the event will be used to support local heart health programs, said senior Joe Rodell.

Rodell, a health science major, said he and two other students helped to plan the event for NEMO Heart Health for their health science capstone class. The group had a short amount of time to brainstorm different ideas for the "Rock the Town Red" event.

"We really had to hit the ground running with this event," Rodell said. "We only had a month to get it turned around after the beginning of the semester."

He said his group and the "Rock the Town Red" event organizers called different businesses to gauge their interest in purchasing T-shirts and red light bulbs to place in the storefront display. Some of the participating organi-

zations included Hy-Vee, A.T. Still University, DuKum Inn, City Hall and the Kirkville Daily Express.

Kelli Hunsicker, NEMO Heart Health Chair of Media Fundraising, said the event focused on three cardiovascular health programs including automated external defibrillator education, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and childhood obesity awareness.

"Our first initiative is to put AEDs in the community," Hunsicker said. "We have over 70 in the Kirkville community right now and we are starting to branch out into Brashear and Novinger and La Plata might also get one. There are multiple counties."

She said the AED installation includes CPR training. Businesses are not required by law to have an AED, but if a business installs one of NEMO Heart Health's AEDs, Hunsicker said NEMO Heart Health will provide CPR and AED training for up to six employees.

NEMO Heart Health also is partnering with ATSU and the Kirkville School District to provide children with education and resources to lead healthy lifestyles, said Dr. John Rickelman, NEMO Heart Health Medical Director. He said 25 percent of children in northeast Missouri under age 12 are considered to be overweight. NEMO Heart Health responded to this statistic by forming NEMO-RAAWKS — Raising Active Awesome Kids — and has been working with students



Danielle Waldron/Index
A red ribbon is tied around a lightpost at A.T. Still University. The ribbons were tied along The Square in honor of the "Rock the Town Red" event, senior Joe Rodell said.

age 3 to 10 to teach fundamental movement skills such as balancing and jumping. He said NEMO-RAAWKS is evaluating different methods of teaching children in private and public schools in Kirkville how to make healthier choices, rather than just focusing on childhood obesity.

Rickelman said including childhood obesity as part of "Rock the Town Red" ensures all aspects of heart health are addressed and creates preventative awareness.

"You have kids who don't have any illness yet who are learning bad behaviors, such as bad eating or lack of activity," Rickelman

said. "Then you have the person who needs an AED because they smoke, eat too much, don't exercise and are now suffering from cardiac arrest. I think we are just really trying to attack the issue at both ends."

Rickelman said he is trying to evaluate different options for raising awareness within the community and getting more people involved with future health projects and advocate for health awareness.

Hunsicker said the event raised about \$3,800 and will go toward purchasing AEDs and funding heart health programs.

Organizations offers free tax help

BY SARAH-WONDER AGBEHIA
Staff Reporter

Beta Alpha Psi, an honorary international accounting and finance society, will offer free income tax return service to Kirkville residents and Truman State students every weekend through March 23 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As part of their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, Truman's Kappa Nu chapter of Beta Alpha Psi offers assistance to area residents filing 2013 income tax returns.

Truman was the only location with a VITA program in the area after the other VITA sites closed, reflected in the increasing number of tax returns, economics professor Alan Davis said.

During 2008, 160 people filed tax returns through the VITA program, Davis said. Last year 430 tax returns were filed and this year 240 have been filed so far, he said.

Senior Gretchen Wright, VITA Vice President, said about 70 student volunteers are working with community members and Truman students.

"This year, we tried to reach out to international students and A.T. Still students,"

Wright said. "We contacted [the International Student Affairs Office] letting them know that our services are available to international students, and from the numbers that have shown up I would say our turnout is pretty good so far."

Wright said individuals coming to file their tax returns need to bring their social security card, a form of state ID, all their tax forms, such as property taxes or student financial aid credits, student loan documents and dividend and tax interest income information. Property taxes and some itemized deductions can be filed through the VITA program as well.

"Our volunteers are happy to be here and help out the community," Wright said. "It's not just accounting and business majors but students who want to grow professionally, and this is one of the programs that our organization provides to help make that happen."

Wright said the program caters to low-income individuals, individuals who wouldn't file their taxes without the program's help and individuals filing on their

own with a free online program.

The volunteers for the VITA program include members of Enactus, National Association of Black Collegians and Phi Beta Lambda, Davis said.

"We put our volunteers through a training program with the tax return software, which is about 10 to 12 hours of training under supervision," Davis said. "We have graduate students check the returns multiple times, and when they are filed, they are additionally checked by experienced members of the program."

Graduate student Bibodh Thapa, VITA program volunteer coordinator, said the program is essential to gaining accounting experience.

"As a future accountant, the hands-on experience with working with members in the community can't be beat," Thapa said. "This year, we have had clients outside the Kirkville area, as far as Macon and Moberly. The fact that our program is important to community members that far away means we're doing something right."

Tax assistance available
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sat. March 2 and
Sat. March 23 in
Violette Hall 1424

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