

# St. Elizabeth's Hospital & Midwest Career Source Introduce 8-week Paid CNA Training Program

O'FALLON - According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of health care occupations has been projected to grow 15 percent from 2019 to 2029, much faster than the average for all occupations, adding about 2.4 million new jobs<sup>1</sup>. Health care occupations are projected to add more jobs than any of the other occupational groups but the costs of getting trained for clinical care positions may be higher than some can afford. To help solve this issue, HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital, in partnership with Midwest Career Source (MCS) and St. Clair County's Workforce Development Apprenticeship Program, are working together to create a bridge into the industry for those with little to no experience.

The hospital's new Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)

program is an opportunity for those interested in health care to train on-the-job, while getting paid, in order open the door to numerous career paths within the hospital and HSHS system. The program is also supported by the St. Clair County Workforce Development Apprenticeship Program.

The CNA program is a paid training program that combines classroom education with hands-on clinical experience. This allows participants, who may already have the heart and compassion for clinical care, the opportunity to gain employment and an education, while being paid, in order to enter a rewarding career in the health care industry. The training allows these colleagues to sit for the IL state Certified Nurse Assistant exam which is something they can then use to apply for local area nursing schools. HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital Provides tuition assistance for colleagues who are seeking to further their education in an approved health related field.

"It's a paid opportunity to learn. This program provides experiences, tools and onsite training to enhance skills and give them added support to grow in the clinical care field," said program facilitator Lleyna Gorka, RN, MSN. "With St. Elizabeth's CNA program, we are instilling not only the clinical skills but the culture and tradition that comes with

the long history of service at St. Elizabeth's Hospital."

Applications for the first cohort of the CNA program are now being accepted at [careers.hshs.org/jobs/37908](https://careers.hshs.org/jobs/37908) (job code: Intern-Clinical) and training will start in August. Both day and night shift positions are available.

Some CNA programs require students to pay for the program, which could be cost prohibitive to prospective applicants who are working full-time already or may not have the means. St. Elizabeth's program is an exciting opportunity because participants get paid while they learn and, upon successful completion of the program objectives and testing, will have a position at the hospital.

"St. Elizabeth's Hospital is dedicated to the growth and development of new and current colleagues, from the beginning of a career with us through ongoing professional advancement programs and education assistance grants," said St. Elizabeth's Chief Nursing Officer, Regina Peterson, DNP, RN.

The hospital also recently began a four-week RN internship program to add to other educational and job-training initiatives such as the RN Residency, Clinical Ladder program and more. For information on any of these programs and other opportunities, email Lleyna.Gorka@hshs.org or visit <https://careers.hshs.org/>.

# Safety and Backyard Pools

Backyard pools provide families with ample opportunities for recreation. It's easy to be distracted by all the fun when swimming in a backyard pool, but it is crucial that homeowners take steps to ensure everyone is safe when spending time in the pool.

## Establish a barrier

The Consumer Product Safety Commission warns that drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death in children between the ages of one and four in the United States. Pools attract curious children, so maintaining a barrier between the home and the pool is essential. Many municipalities require some sort of fencing around pools or ladders that self-latch or can be closed off to climbing.

Locks and alarms on windows and doors that face or provide access to the backyard also can serve as barriers.

## Keep play under control

Children and even adults may be swept up in the fun and engage in potentially dangerous behaviors. Pool users should not be allowed to run around the perimeter of an inground pool, as the cement can get slippery when wet and lead to falls that can cause injuries.

Exercise caution when using diving boards or diving into pools. It's easy for divers to hit



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their heads when diving off a board into a pool due to close proximity of the transition wall in the deep end of the pool or by diving into shallow water. The Red Cross recommends a water depth of 11.5 feet for safe diving and the transition wall should be at least 16.5 feet from the tip of the diving board. However, the standard depth for many pools is 7.5 feet of water and a slope beginning seven feet from the board.

## Exercise caution with inflatables

The Good Housekeeping Research Institute found that inflatable pool toys are especially dangerous. Such toys can flip easily, putting children at risk for injury (from striking the sides of the pool) or drowning (especially if the children were ejected into deep water). Inflatables also can prevent access to the surface of the water for submerged swim-

## Choose a backyard lifeguard

At least one person should be designated as backyard lifeguard when the pool is in use. This person should always direct his or her focus on the pool, counting swimmers and keeping track of who enters and leaves the pool. Safe Kids Worldwide suggests rotating water watchers every 15 minutes.

Pools are fun places to spend summer afternoons, especially when every step is taken to ensure the safety of swimmers.



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# MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021

We congratulate our graduates and pray they are blessed with continued success!



## VALEDICTORIANS

The seniors pictured above earned a 4.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale: (front from left) Klara Schildroth, Annie Byram, Jordyn Muscarello, Ellen Antonacci, Olyvia Wilken; (back from left) Logan Mattson, Garrett Hodous, Blake Kloeckner, and Alden Moss.

## ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

Ellen Antonacci, Alex Brandenburger, Trina Brokering, Annie Byram, Ethan Deerhake, Blake Kloeckner, Thomas Marron, Logan Mattson, Collin McCray, Alden Moss, Jordyn Muscarello, Klara Schildroth, and Olyvia Wilken

## PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR FOUR YEARS

Tyler Janota, Thomas Marron, Logan Mattson, Morgan Oertel, Carter Ritzheimer, and Trevor Wesselmann

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (NHS)

Fifty percent of the Class of 2021 were members of National Honor Society, having earned a GPA of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

## SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

Sixty-three percent of the Class of 2021 reported receiving scholarship offers, which totaled \$8 million.

## COLLEGE CREDIT HOURS EARNED

Through enrollment in our dual credit courses, the Class of 2021 earned a total of 1,510 hours of college credit.



**LOVING THEIR FAITH** The Class of 2021 included eleven catechists, who served Youth Faith Formation and Parish School of Religion (PSR) programs at local parishes, and seventeen extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

**LIVING THEIR FAITH** The Class of 2021 provided nearly 8,000 hours of service related to the Works of Mercy, donated to Sr. Thea Bowman School in East St. Louis as their class mission, and funded a \$2,021 Pay It Forward Scholarship for the Class of 2025.

## MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2021 WILL ATTEND THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS

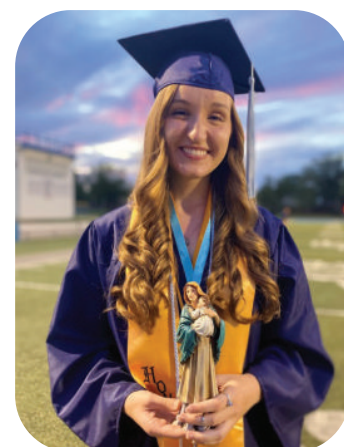
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|---|---|
| Blackburn College                           | Oklahoma State University                 |
| Bradley University                          | Ranken Technical College                  |
| Carroll University                          | Rend Lake College                         |
| Conservatory of Recording Arts & Sciences   | St. Louis University                      |
| Creighton University                        | Southeast Missouri State University       |
| Eastern Illinois University                 | Southern Illinois University Edwardsville |
| Greenville University                       | Southwestern Illinois College             |
| Iowa State University                       | Tennessee Tech University                 |
| Illinois College                            | University of Illinois                    |
| Kaskaskia College                           | University of Illinois Chicago            |
| Lewis & Clark Community College             | University of Louvain (Belgium)           |
| Logan University                            | University of Missouri                    |
| Maryville University                        | University of Paul Valéry (France)        |
| Maastricht University (Netherlands)         | University of Southern Indiana            |
| McKendree University                        | University of South Florida               |
| Millikin University                         | University of Texas at Austin             |
| Missouri State University                   | University of Wisconsin—Stout             |
| Missouri University of Science & Technology | Webster University                        |
| Murray State University                     | West Virginia University                  |



**STEVE BECKER  
SCHOLAR-ATHLETE**  
Jessie Timmermann



**LADY AND KNIGHT OF THE YEAR**  
Jordyn Muscarello and Logan Mattson



**CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**  
Jordyn Muscarello