

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Lake Land College introduces new medical assistant completion program

Lake Land College recently introduced a medical assistant completion program for those who have a Certified Medical Assistant certificate from somewhere other than Lake Land College and would like to earn an associate degree as a medical assistant.

"This is a great opportunity for people already working in this field to advance their careers," Medical Assistant Program Instructor and Director of the Medical Assistant Program Molly Yeske said.

The program offers students the opportunity to earn an associate degree as a medical as-

sistant based upon qualifications they have already earned elsewhere. As a current student in the program, Rhonda Lambes said she was extremely grateful for the opportunity to further her professional training.

"I knew right away that this scenario was about as perfect as it gets," Lambes said. "I knew I had to do this for myself."

Another student, Jami Duffy, said she decided to enroll in the program for her own personal gain as well as to inspire her employees. Duffy recently took on an administrative position in her workplace, and she said she felt compelled

to lead her employees by example.

"It says a lot about someone's dedication to their employer and employment when they are willing to invest in their education," Duffy said.

Not only are graduates of the program more likely to have a broader range of employment opportunities, they can also become more well-versed and marketable with their abilities and even earn pay or position raises in some situations.

For more information about how to get involved in the program, contact Yeske at 217-234-5055 or myeske@lakelandcollege.edu.



Ill. State Police investigation leads to charges in Hammond murder

On September 30, 2021, the Office of Piatt County State's Attorney Sarah Perry charged Blayton M. Cota, a 19-year-old male of Granite City, Illinois and two juveniles, ages 16 and 17 of Springfield, Illinois with First-Degree Murder.

As it relates to the First-Degree Murder charges (Class M Crimi-

nal Felony); Cota and the 2 juveniles are alleged, on or about January 26, 2021, to have murdered Michael Brown with a firearm while committing a burglary.

These charges resulted from an incident that occurred on January 26, 2021, when Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 5 officials were requested by

the Piatt County Sheriff's Department to assist with a death investigation. The victim, Michael Brown, a 65-year-old male of Hammond, IL was found deceased in his residence on S. C Street in Hammond, IL.

The 16-year-old juvenile was taken into custody on September 30, 2021, the 17-year old Juvenile was

taken into custody on October 5, 2021 and Cota was taken into custody on October 4, 2021 by ISP DCI Agents. Cota is being held in the Piatt County Jail on \$1,000,000 bond, 10% to apply. Both juveniles are being confined in juvenile detention facilities.

ISP DCI Zone 5 was assisted by the Attorney General's Office of Illi-

nois; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Logan, Menard, Piatt, and Sangamon County Sheriff's Offices; Lincoln, Petersburg, and Springfield Police Departments; and the Piatt County Coroner and State's Attorney's Offices. No additional information will be released in this open and ongoing investigation.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation or other crimes are encouraged to contact the Illinois State Police, Division of Criminal Investigations at (217) 278-5004 (tip line) or by email at ISP.DCI.Zone05@Illinois.gov.

All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

East Central Illinois Christian School coming soon to Newman, Illinois

In April of this year, a group of people began discussing the formation of a Christian School in Douglas County. This was in response to the curriculum being forced on public schools that, although opposed by many Central Illinois communities, was being forced upon them by state and federal laws. As Critical Race Theory and

questionable sex education materials are being mandated in public schools, parents are losing control of many aspects of their children's education. The time is passing where a parent can challenge the school board or the administration about education because more and more the hands of the board and administration are tied by

lawmakers whose agenda is not compatible with values of the community.

The answer to the problems mentioned above lies in a school that is responsive to the parents and the needs of their children. That is the aim of the East Central Illinois Christian School. The school will be located in Newman, Illinois and it is expected

that the communities it will be serving will include an area from Ogden to the north, Paris to the southeast, Charleston to the south, and Sadorus and Tolono to the northeast. Although this may seem like a large area, the proof of the need of schools like ECICS is shown by the enrollment of the Arthur Christian School which

draws from an area similar in size. The need is further shown by the rapid growth in the student population of the Arthur school.

A Christian school does not need to be accredited for the students to be admitted to college. Good ACT or SAT scores and a list of the classes taken in high school are important. Remember that many of the

greatest scientific advances in the twentieth century were made by graduates of one room school houses where a teacher could advance gifted students with individual study and give special attention to students who needed tutoring.

ECICS will be coming soon and it is an opportunity to have your child enrolled in a private school. The advantages of a private school are numerous, if that were not the case, the wealthy would not be using private schools for their children. ECICS realizes that it will not be competition for public schools, nor does it wish to be. However, it will be an option that is not now available for parents who feel the public school curriculum is not meeting the needs of their children.

ECICS looks forward to a school that will not only provide a top level education, but an education that will be based on Christian values. More articles will follow this one. If you have any questions you would like to have answered, the website for ECICS is ecicschool.org and the email is ecillinoischristian@gmail.com

(The views and opinions expressed in the submitted columns are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of The Journal.)



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