



Growing our own nurses

Nursing leadership held a meet-and-greet on Tuesday, Jan. 24, with associates pursuing a nursing degree as well as nursing students doing their clinical rotations and capstones at Via Christi.

“We were thrilled by the participation level and excitement of the students and nursing managers,” says Carla Yost, system chief nursing officer.

Thirty-three nursing students came to the event, held in the Guadalupe Conference Center at St. Francis, at which Carla and CEO Mike Mullins offered brief remarks and then returned to visiting with attendees.

Manisa Howell, who has served for 16 years at Via Christi, first in transportation, then as a monitor tech and currently as certified nurse assistant in T/SICU, was among them. Manisa, who will earn her bachelor’s degree in Nursing from Hesston in May, said she hopes to continue to work in T/SICU under the leadership of Matt French-Bravo, whose career growth has been an inspiration to her.

“When I first began working in SICU, Matt was a tech,” says Manisa. “Now he’s our Nursing director!”

Are we hiring? Absolutely!

In fact, between Jan. 15 and Jan. 21, Via Christi hired seven RNs, one nurse tech, one CNA, 1 EMT and one medical assistant. Another 30 offers are being processed.

To keep up the recruitment momentum, Via Christi is hosting an interview fair from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, in the McNamara Center at Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph. If you know nurses you’d like to have as teammates, please encourage them to bring their resumes and join us for this event!

Nurses to Go Red

Friday, Feb. 3, is National Wear Red Day, an American Heart Association and American Stroke Association initiative designed to raise awareness of heart disease, particularly as it affects women.

In support of that effort, Kristen Knowles, RN, who serves in the Neuro Critical Care Unit at St. Francis and on AHA’s local volunteer leadership team, asked and was given permission for Via Christi nurses to be allowed to wear a red shirt under their scrubs on Feb. 3 – 9.

Kristen would also like to invite her participating Nursing colleagues to sign up for the Via Christi Heart Walk team, an event that will take place in June, by going to wichitaheartwalk.org, clicking “Find a team” and then entering “Via Christi.”