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Ourhealth

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INTRODUCING THE

2009 Guide to Healthcare Education

in Southwest and Central Virginia

Jefferson College of Health Sciences is Growing By Leaps and Bounds: Four Ways JCHS is Growing to Meet the Demand for Healthcare Professionals in the Roanoke Valley

In 1914, Dr. Hugh Trout, Sr.—an early pioneer of healthcare in the Roanoke Valley—founded the Jefferson Hospital School of Nursing to avoid a shortage of adequately trained nurses in the city. Little did he know that 95 years later, his school would turn out hundreds of healthcare professionals every year.

Obviously, the Jefferson College of Health Sciences (JCHS) we know today is much different than the school Trout founded almost a century ago. But, much of the school's evolution has taken place in recent years.

Below are four ways that JCHS has grown over the last few years as well as future plans to continue this expansion.

Academic Programs

In 2007, JCHS celebrated 25 years as a degree-granting higher education institution. Our academic programs today are vastly different than those offered in 1982. At that time, the College—then known as the Community Hospital of the Roanoke Valley College of Health Sciences—offered only two Associate Degree programs in nursing and respiratory care.

As the years passed, it became clear that the healthcare industry in this region needed newly-graduated healthcare professionals in a number of areas. As a result, the College began adding programs.

We now offer 14 degree programs, including Master's Degrees in Nursing, Occupational Therapy and Physician Assistant; Bachelor's Degrees in Biomedical Science, Emergency Services, Health & Exercise Science, Healthcare Management, Health Psychology and Nursing; and Associate's Degrees in Nursing, Science, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant and Respiratory Therapy—quite a difference from the two offered just 25 years ago.

Student Population

Dr. Trout's first class to complete the nursing program at the Jefferson Hospital School of Nursing in 1917 was composed of six students. In 2009 alone, JCHS has graduated 228 students.

JCHS has undergone dramatic changes in student population in the last six years. Increased recruiting, along with the expansion of academic offerings, has helped the College increase the number of full-time students from a little over 600 in 2002 to nearly 1,000 in the 2008-2009 academic year.

Additional Educational Spaces

In 2007, Carilion Clinic consolidated services under one roof at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Space at Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital (CRCH) was given to JCHS for new classrooms, labs and office areas.

Some relocation has already begun. The JCHS Bookstore and elements of the Physician Assistant and Respiratory Therapy programs are now located at CRCH. Other disciplines' labs and classrooms will be moved to CRCH in the future.

In addition to these classrooms and labs, some administrative offices have moved to CRCH, including those of the College Administrative Team and Student Affairs department.

Alumni

With every graduating class, we enlarge our pool of alumni. JCHS alumni play a crucial role in helping the school continue growing by acting as ambassadors for JCHS, spreading the word about the school in the Roanoke community and beyond. In addition, positive recollections about JCHS may make their way to prospective students, enabling us to recruit "second generation" or "legacy" students.

For more information about JCHS and the programs we offer, contact us today by phone at 1-888-985-8483, by e-mail at admissions@mail.jchs.edu or on the web at www.jchs.edu.

