Two Community Colleges Partner With Jefferson College of Health Sciences

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By Karen McNew - email

ROANOKE - Update

Three colleges are collaborating for the good of students and the future of local health care.

"Seventy percent of our students have a relationship with the community college system prior to coming with us," explains Jefferson College of Health Sciences President, Dr. Nathaniel L. Bishop.

Over the last two years, seven hundred and fifty six students have transferred to J.C.H.S. from New River Community College or Virginia Western. In that same time period one thousand four hundred fifty three students came to JCHS from twenty one different colleges including N.R.C.C. and V.W.C.C. More than half of those transfers are from the Roanoke and New River Valley colleges.

"It makes a huge statement to prospective students, to their parents, and their grandparents that you can attend New River Community College and with confidence know that you can
transfer to high quality institutions like J.C.H.S. for your advanced degrees,” explains N.R.C.C. President, Jack Lewis.

The new partnership will also allow students to remain close to home.

"It allows them to complete those degrees locally especially those students who want to stay in the Roanoke Valley and want to work in our wonderful health care systems in the Roanoke Valley," explains V.W.C.C. Vice President, Dr. Elizabeth Wilmer.

Katelyn Sutphin commutes from Radford to Roanoke two to three times a week. She is working toward a Respiratory Therapy Degree. The seamless transition from N.R.C.C. to J.C.H.S. has made a huge difference for her.

"I have always had interest in healthcare I didn't know where," explains Sutphin.

Sutphin will graduate next year.

School leaders and students are looking forward to seeing the results this partnership will create in the future.

10:15 am
A new agreement between New River Community College, Virginia Western Community College and Jefferson College of Health Sciences will create more health care degree opportunities for students.

Tonight WSLS 10 at 5:00p and 6:00p will have more on the bridge it creates between the Roanoke and New River Valleys. We will also look at the void in health care these changes hope to fill.