

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • April 20, 2018

It says a lot about our Adult Education health-care programs that Adena Health System seeks out Pickaway-Ross when creating a partnership.



In the most recent case, Adena wanted to provide a pathway for its employees who do not have medical background training.

Stephanie Jury, clinical educator for Adena, knew Avonia Dearth, Health Technologies coordinator, and reached out to her about providing such a program.

“They want to train current Adena employees to become certified medical assistants,” said Avonia, explaining that there is a tremendous shortage of medical assistants.

The new program is 24 weeks, meeting evenings and weekends at Adena’s PACCAR Education Center. While the first class, which starts May 1, is employee-specific, it could be offered in the future to the public to help address the shortage, she said.

In 2016, there were more than 634,000 medical assistant jobs, with the projected outlook to grow 29 percent from 2016 to 2026, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

As of May 2017, the median annual wage was \$32,480.

This in-demand field has been a benefit for Adult Education’s students in Medical Assisting. Often, students in the program are hired immediately after completing the program and many secure employment while still in school.

“Avonia has really created a great program for our students and people in the health-care field know her and her work,” said Carrie Fife, Adult Education director.

Avonia said she takes pride in the curriculum and in the quality of students that are coming out of the Health Technologies programs.



Avonia Dearth, Adult Education Health Technologies coordinator, helps set up the Pharmacy Technician lab for last month’s Health, Safety & Fitness Expo. Adena donated the pill caddies that were given out to Expo visitors.

“We are teaching them the best methods for hands-on skills and that is important in the field,” Avonia said.



Carrie has a lot to brag about in Adult Education this month.

At the annual Bill Ruth Awards Dinner during the Post-Secondary Adult Career Education conference, Anthony Southworth was awarded the Pam Decker Financial Aid award.



This award, named in memory of a former financial aid coordinator at Mid-East Career Center, is given to a financial aid administrator who has contributed greatly to outstanding service to students, colleagues and peers. Qualifications for nomination include outstanding service to students, a willingness to assume a leadership role and to be highly regarded by colleagues.

“Anthony personifies the qualifications required for this award,” Carrie said. “He knows so much about financial aid, which is important, but he is so helpful that he makes what could be a stressful process a more pleasant one.”

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