

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Sept. 12, 2014

It's not just our students who are a little nervous on that first day of school.



Despite 25 years in the nursing profession – and teaching Adult Education's practical nursing program at our Circleville campus for seven years – Kim Oliver had some first-day jitters.

"I was so nervous the night of Open House," said Kim, who is teaching the new Health-Care Foundations program. "I told my students I could relate to the anxieties they are feeling."

While Kim loved teaching in Adult Education, she wasn't sure how she would be received by high school students, she said.

But then she realized that adult learners and high school students have something in common: They all choose to come here.

"Students in a career-based high school have a desire to be here," she said. "That is so positive."

While working as an obstetrics nurse at Adena, Kim taught part time in Adult Education, working with students on their clinicals. Kim loved the interaction with students and when a scheduling



Kim Oliver, Health-Care Foundations instructor, watches — and waits — as a student takes her turn in quiz review Jenga.

conflict arose, she decided to leave Adena.

Going into teaching full time is almost like the family profession: Her twin sisters teach and her father, step-mother and step-dad are all retired teachers.

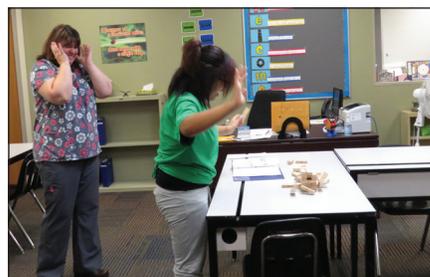
"I needed to make a choice and I'm happy with what I did," she said.

Now a month into the school year, Kim and her 12 students are finding their footing.

A recent day included a session of quiz review Jenga, in which students are asked a question from what they're studying and if the question is answered correctly, the student gets to attempt to pull a block from the Jenga tower.

"I'm a very hands-on learner, so I try to incorporate that into my teaching," Kim said.

Kim's program is designed for students interested in pursuing an entry-level position



in the health-care field, such as working in home health care or as nurse aides. Similar to our Medical Career programs, the program's pacing is slightly different, as students will wait until their senior year to take the State Tested Nursing Assistant exam.

While Kim is excited about the year ahead – and not quite as nervous – she plans to settle in this year and see what her students' interests and needs are before setting grand goals.

"I want the kids to achieve as much as possible in my class and not be limited by expectations that others have placed on them," she said.

"Maybe being in a place where they're going to thrive is what's going to make the difference for them academically."

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