

Our Towns

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EdCC program goal: jobs

Health care positions for low-income adults in the county is the goal of an Edmonds Community College training initiative.

By **KATIE MURDOCH**
For The Herald

LYNNWOOD — Edmonds Community College officials are scheduled to launch a program this spring quarter aimed at training low-income adults for jobs in health care.

The Creating Access to Careers in Healthcare program will offer training to 500 low-income Snohomish County adults for jobs in allied health professions, including pharmacy, phlebotomy and

EKG technicians. The program is expected to become a model for Washington state, college officials said.

"If the pilot can be successful, this approach has the opportunity to be broadened," said John House, program director.

Last fall, the college received a federal grant for \$1.4 million from the Department of Health and Human Services to fund the program's first year.

It is designed to bridge the gap between poverty in the county and regional shortages in health services by offering training to help students advance into better paying jobs.

The training will be a combination of online learning, hands-on skills labs and clinical work experience at partner health care facilities. Students will train for such

jobs as a pharmacy technician or clinical laboratory assistant. After, they can continue their education to advance their career.

House said there's a special process involved with qualifying as a student. Hopefuls must be low-income and must be assessed. This is expected to help students define their school and career goals and see if the program is a good fit. The assessments will identify barriers, such as lack of transportation or having enough time, to help students succeed.

"We're grounded in the notion of having no barriers," House said. "The online component can help people overcome initial barriers."

House served as the director of special projects for the Center for Learning Connections at Highline Community College. Previously

he worked on statewide projects training frontline staff for Work-First and developing job-hunter curriculum for the Employment Security Department.

Health care jobs are appealing and a suitable career choice, House said. He said these jobs are high in demand, skills, technology, have the potential for high wages and employees show high satisfaction.

The college is offering the program through partnerships with such agencies as the Workforce Development Council of Snohomish County, Everett Community College and the Department of Social and Health Services, to name a few.

For more information about allied health education and training at EdCC, go to www.edcc.edu/ahe.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Everett: Navy exercise restricts access to base

Naval Station Everett is participating in a nationwide security exercise today through Friday.

Access through the base gates may be restricted Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon, said public affairs officer Kristin Ching. The exercise is designed to train and prepare Navy security personnel to respond to threats.

During the week, the exercise could cause increased traffic on Marine View Drive, delays at entry points and restrictions on leaving and entering bases. Area residents may also see increased security activity associated with the exercise, Ching said.

More info: Naval Station Everett Public Affairs, 425-304-3202.

SBX environmental assessment comments

The public may comment on a draft of an environmental assessment for the maintenance and repair of the Sea-Based X-Band radar vessel. The Missile Defense Agency said it plans to have that work done at the Todd Pacific Shipyards in Seattle in the spring of 2011.

'On a vertical trajectory'

Meet Nicholas Rider, an accomplished writer at the ripe age of 10