



A New Program Director for Radiography



Melanie Seneca

Digital radiography has become the standard in diagnostic imaging. This makes the radiographers who operate this equipment an essential part of health care teams. As such, PA College's Radiography program provides the health care community with educated, professionally competent entry-level radiographers.

In February, Melanie Seneca joined the College as the new director of the Radiography Program. Before coming to PA College, Seneca worked at Pennsylvania State University – Schuylkill Haven for more than 17 years as a clinical instructor and adjunct faculty member for its Radiologic Science Program. While there, she served as a didactic educator, a clinical instructor at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, and the interim clinical facilitator.

Seneca holds a master's degree in health education from Pennsylvania State University, a bachelor's degree in organizational behavior and applied psychology from Albright College, and an associate degree in radiological sciences from Harrisburg Area Community College. ■

College Unveils Medical Assistant Program

This fall, PA College will launch a new Medical Assistant program, which offers a nine-month hands-on technical certificate including both theory and clinical courses, as well as an externship experience. Students will learn clinical skills such as drawing blood, taking vitals, performing tests, and giving injections, as well as clerical skills such as billing, coding, filing insurance claims and more. Upon completing the program, students are eligible to take the Certified Medical Assistant exam through the National Healthcareer Association.

Leading the program is Heather Myers, who joined PA College in January as the Program Director.



Heather Myers

Myers studied at Ashford University in the Healthcare Administration program and earned her Associate Degree in Specialized Technology — Medical Assistant. Prior to coming to the College, she worked as a Medical Assistant Instructor for nearly 10 years at Fortis Institute in Towson, MD. Myers also served as a Medical Assistant Instructor at YTI Career Institute in Lancaster.

The Medical Assistant program provides an entry-level gateway for anyone interested in starting a career in health care. For more information, visit www.PACollege.edu/medical-assistant. ■

In Memoriam



Donna Hlavacek, RN, MSN

Sadly, beloved nursing instructor Donna Hlavacek, RN, MSN, died in January after a long illness. She primarily taught the "Foundations of Nursing Practice" course for the College's Associate of Science in Nursing program for three decades until her retirement in 2018. Teaching those principles and skills fundamental to nursing to "brand new" learners required kindness and patience, gifts that Hlavacek possessed in abundance.

Many graduates have shared stories of how Hlavacek positively impacted their educational journeys, helping them navigate the decision to become nurses. While she held them to high standards, her students found her to be approachable and caring.

Michelle Duffy '20, RN, shared this remembrance: "My first semester clinical class was her very last before her retirement. I will always remember what she told me on my very first day of clinicals. We were talking about the fact that I was an 'older' student and that I had waited until my four children were grown and in college before I set out to go to school myself. I told her how nervous I was because all I felt I had going for me was my desire to help people. Donna's response will stay with me always. She said: 'The day you lose that desire that you have, I want you to stop being a nurse because that is what matters.'" ■

Earlier this month, the PA College Community paid tribute to Hlavacek's positive impact on so many students by planting a flowering shrub in her memory at the College. ■