The President’s Corner
by Nick Mansour

Happy New Year! This is a natural time of year to look back and look forward.

We accomplished many goals in 2011. One deserves special attention as we close the year. Since our last Lifeline, it’s been nice to see the fruits of the labor of the instructors, Assistant Program Directors, and Program Directors in helping our students achieve their goals. They have been putting particular emphasis on identifying students early who could use additional teaching and getting them the resources they need, including tutoring. This has meant more one on one and individual attention to the students. They also started the Peer Mentor Program, where students help each other. These efforts are paying off. Instructors have reported improving test scores. Our retention rates are climbing. Thanks so much for your hard work. Our students and our college are benefitting greatly. Let’s keep it up.

One of our goals for the New Year is to start new programs and nursing has been at the top of our list and a program that we have gotten many inquiries about from the community. We have hired Dr. Judi Crume as Dean of Nursing to lead our efforts to establish a nursing program at Arizona College. Dr. Crume has an impressive career in nursing and nursing education. The first step is to get approval by the different agencies that regulate nursing education and that process is moving steadily forward. The staff here has been excited and very helpful to work with Dr. Crume on this new adventure. As I’ve told her many times, this is certainly one of the most important initiatives at our school. We will keep you posted in future Lifelines as to our progress.

We have a long list of ideas for additional new programs, including Respiratory Therapy, Dental Hygienist, Veterinary Technician, Ultrasound Technician, and many other healthcare related fields. We have a lot to learn about each before we make any decisions. High on our list, we’ll strive to understand the needs of our local employers and our ability to place our graduates in good jobs long-term. As important, we’ll want to hear from you. If you are interested in any of the programs listed above or in a different program, please let us know. You may also contact me directly via email at nmansour@arizonacollege.edu with your feedback.

On a final note, over 100 students and their friends and families celebrated graduation on December 10th. It was a great event and we wish them well. Here’s to an exciting 2012. May you accomplish the goals you set for yourself, and please let us know if we can be help you follow your dreams.

Best,
Nick Mansour, President

Spotlight on
OnePoint Patient Care

Pharmacy Technicians at Arizona College, complete a 160 hour externship and can put to use their skills in a variety of settings. One type of setting would be a hospice pharmacy and a perfect example would be OnePoint Patient Care, which is one of our Pharmacy Technician externship partners. They are located in Tempe, AZ.

OnePoint Patient Care is the nation’s leader in providing total hospice pharmacy services. They provide daily in-home delivery from our local pharmacies in each market they serve. OnePoint Patient Care is different than any other national or local hospice pharmacy because of the RX AccuTrack program in which they utilize.

This means they specialize in hospice pharmacotherapy, offer exceptional clinical advice, provide cost management programs unique to each hospice partner, provide custom compounding solutions and deliver daily to each patient’s home.
long-term care facility or inpatient unit. These are many advantages that OnePoint Patient Care offers to its clients.

As OnePoint Patient Care experiences rapid growth, they seek qualified candidates who exemplify their mission; that professionalism, personal accountability and integrity, are at the core of who they are and what they do, every hour of every day.

Thank you OnePoint Patient Care for providing care for patients and also being one of our valuable Externship Partners.

-Article submitted by Heather Millward, Career Services Coordinator.

Changing Lives... by David Bravo

My name is David Bravo and I would like to share my college experience at Arizona College with this article.

I picked to attend Arizona College because it is one of the top medical colleges in Arizona. It was also close to where I live and the television commercials got my attention.

The program I was interested in was Massage Therapy and I think it was a perfect fit for me. I was good at giving massages, but I needed training to become a professional. I decided to attend Arizona College and enrolled in the Massage Therapy Program.

My life changed dramatically once I became a student, due the time I invested in class and studying. I was beginning to understand the art of Massage Therapy.

What I enjoyed most within the program was the small class size of the Massage Program, the company of my classmates and my instructors. My fellow classmates were all unique individuals and the instructors were highly intelligent.

The Arizona College Open House was such an amazing experience. I got a chance to meet interesting people that attended the Open House, and other staff members from the College. Everyone was curious about massage, and some people had never experienced a massage before. I gave some of them a corporate chair massage, just so they could see how it felt. Some visitors had questions and with my knowledge and training, I helped by answering their questions regarding massage and its benefits.

My instructors, Ms. Hartness and Ms. Salter trained me very well and they are the best! I would recommend this program to others who are interested in Massage Therapy.

Now that I am a graduate, I perform relaxing and therapeutic massages. With my knowledge, training and education from Arizona College, I have become more accustomed to using the techniques included in a Therapeutic Massage, mainly because many of my clients have problem areas or conditions that I focus on.

I have a special client in particular, who has benefited greatly from Therapeutic Massage. He is a colon and prostate cancer survivor. After many surgeries for the cancer, he was in great pain. After getting medical clearance from his doctors, he was cleared to receive massage as a therapy to assist him with pain management. After an interview, his doctors recommended light massage to help with muscle spasm, adhesions, mobility, pain and mental stress.

I started performing Myofacial Release, and after two days, he was feeling the benefits of Massage Therapy. He was experiencing more mobility, less muscular spasm, higher energy and a positive mood.

It’s been a dramatic year, and I definitely owe my success to Arizona College and especially to my instructors.

Thank you,

David Bravo, Massage Therapy Graduate

Agency Department Updates

On October 5th, 2011, Arizona College Participated in the APSA Training Expo. This is an annual event designed for counselors from “Workforce Connections” to come together with various schools and discuss training. The event was amazing with over 150 attendees and 31 schools attending breakout sessions on topics relevant to workforce, training and the relationships between the two.

For those who are not familiar with the Workforce Connection or the workforce system, it is a Federally Funded, locally managed system designed to meet the needs of job seekers by assisting them on a variety of levels. Services available include job coaching, job leads, resume preparation assistance, case management and career training.

Arizona College is an approved training provider for the Workforce System, and the Agency Department works closely with the “workforce” to ensure Arizona College continues to be a valuable partner to Workforce Systems in Arizona.

In December, 2011, our Agency Team attended the Nineteen Tribal Nations Workforce Investment Board annual conference in Prescott, AZ. This was a great opportunity to reconnect with old contacts, make new ones and learn more about issues affecting the workforce in Arizona’s Reservations.

Each year the conference attendees put on a show, each year with a new theme. This year’s theme was “Rez-ney” (Reservation-Disney), all the skits were Disney Land themed and absolutely hilarious!

I am excited about the year ahead and looking forward to a terrific 2012; enjoying the business of helping people achieve great things!

-Article submitted by Dennis Hobgood, Agency Liaison.
Over the Christmas and New Year’s break, several Arizona College Medical Assisting students and graduates gave the amazing gift of service to the families living in the Ronald McDonald House.

The Ronald McDonald house provides a home away from home for the families with children hospitalized in the Phoenix area. As we all can imagine, being away from our normal living environment, accompanied with the fear of your child being ill, can be stressful, to say the least.

Arizona College students and graduates wanted to make sure that these families had a little bit of home, when they volunteered to cook and serve dinner as 2012 was right around the corner.

Being in the Health Care Field is all about serving the community and these students and graduates along with their Assistant Program Manager, Ms. Quan, defined the true meaning of Service.

What a wonderful gift, thank you students and graduates for your thoughtfulness.

In their own words...

“Going to Arizona College has been a great experience for me. I used to be an extremely shy person and going to this school has made me open up and find myself. My externship was a huge turning point for me because I took a chance and let my guard down so I could interact with the patients and staff I worked with. Overall, I enjoyed this wonderful experience. Thank you Arizona College for helping me get on my way to the perfect career.” - Jessica Hines, Medical Assisting Graduate

“I loved my time at Arizona College. The instructors were very knowledgeable and friendly. They pushed me and helped me strive for more. Because of my instructors, I’m striving to get into dental school to become a Dentist.” - Bryan Harris, Dental Assisting Graduate

“Arizona College has given me an excellent experience. I learned so much while attending. I received all the skills and training needed to complete my externship.” - Danna Smith, Phlebotomy Graduate
April Hayes
Medical Assisting Degree
Now Care

Desiree Aguilar
Medical Assisting Diploma
AZ Cardiology Group

Samantha Avalos Flakes
Medical Assisting Diploma
Sonoran Heart

Michael Valdez
Health Information Technology
MSA Healthcare Center

Jordan Lease
Dental Assisting
My Kids Dental Place

Glafira Sorensen
Medical Assisting Diploma
JCL Deer Valley Family Practice

*Please note: Due to limited space, students listed above are only a sample of students that have been placed on externship.
Congratulations Placed Graduates!

Joseph Cherian
Pharmacy Technician
Pharmerica

Afton Hosley
Phlebotomy
Talecris Plasma Resources

Denise Richard
Dental Assisting
Westbrooke Village Dental

Jennifer Wilkerson
Dental Assisting
Victor Nitu, DDS

Candice Dewitt
Medical Assisting Diploma
RemX

Nikie Guzman
Medical Assisting Diploma
New Beginnings Pediatrics

Tracy Goettl
Medical Assisting Degree
Choice Medical

Jazzmon Hatcher
Health Information Specialist
RemX

*Please note: Due to limited space, graduates listed above are only a sample of graduates that have been placed in their related medical field for employment and does not include every placed graduate.
“It’s better to give, than to receive…” This is a very popular saying, especially around the Holidays.

It seems as though, especially nowadays, with wish-lists full of a variety of the latest and greatest gadgets and gizmos, it is easy to get caught up in the hype of the Holidays.

This year at Arizona College, we got back to the basics of what the Holidays are truly about; helping those in need.

Our Director of Student Services & HR, Crystal Van Slyke, coordinated two events on Campus for select students in need.

Arizona College cares, that was the feeling this past Thanksgiving when Arizona College provided full Thanksgiving meals to 4 families within our student body.

With hard times and sometimes even harder circumstances, ensuring your family have the basics of a meal during the Holidays, can feel like an overwhelming task. We had the opportunity to ease some of the stress for our fellow students and their families.

The experience was emotionally overwhelming not only for the students that were helped, but for the staff and faculty as well. “We take so much for granted” stated one faculty member, after a student came in to pick up their basket.

These baskets were stocked full of everything you could possibly think of for a full Thanksgiving Holiday meal; from the main course to dessert and even Pumpkin Waffles for breakfast, hand-made by an Arizona College staff member. It was an awesome experience to see the staff and faculty come together with donations of all the Holiday ingredients to make a Thanksgiving meal. Details even included fresh fall flower arrangements for the table center piece and a card signed by staff members for the basket recipient.

In the spirit of giving, Arizona College also provided gifts to a family from each of our programs. Nominations from our Program Directors and instructors helped narrow down who the recipients would be. Each recommendation was evaluated by who we felt, had the strongest need.

Helping our students and acknowledging their needs, especially during the Holiday Season, is what Arizona College is continually striving to stand for.

As Mr. Araujo continued with his academics, his personal (not to mention professional) growth was becoming more and more obvious. He finished his class time with an impressive GPA, and when the time came, he was placed on his externship at Estrella Mountain Medical Group.

His time on externship was well spent. Mr. Araujo went to his site with nerves and knowledge – not knowing what to expect but having a head full of medical and anatomy terms.

Once on his site, he quickly realized that all the things he learned on campus really do have a place and purpose in the medical field. Beyond that, he realized that he knew more than he thought he did. Not having to ask as many questions as he thought he would, really added to his confidence.

The goal of the externship is to continue and finalize a student’s education and give real-life experience. Mr. Araujo had the ultimate ‘end-of-externship experience’. Not only did he receive high marks on his evaluation – he received the highest recommendation that a new student can….he was hired off of his externship!

Career Services is pleased to have taken a role in assisting Mr. Araujo in finding work in his field! Congratulations, Mr. Araujo!

-Article submitted by Ms. Van Slyke, Director of Student Services and HR.

-Article submitted by Chris Lange, Director of Career Services.
Starting January 1st, 2012, there is an exciting new consolidation option for students with Student Loans from Private Lenders (FFELP) and Direct Loans. This special consolidation opportunity will be offered to eligible borrowers by the Department of Education from January through June 30, 2012.

Arizona College is currently using the Direct Loan program, so students who have a previous loan from an FFELP lender, will be able to consolidate the two loans together and make one payment. Currently students have to make two payments, so there is a great benefit to consolidation.

This new consolidation opportunity will contain another benefit that is not available with the normal consolidation loans. Once consolidated, the borrower will receive a reduction of .25% on the previous interest rate and will be fixed for the life of the loan.

This opportunity is unique in that you can even consolidate previously consolidated loans, and it will not change the repayment period. Borrowers who have loans from Arizona College should not hesitate to take advantage of this repayment option.

If interested in the Special Consolidation, contact the Financial Aid Office at Arizona College and we will assist you in contacting your lender.

-Article submitted by Matt Calhoun, Director of Financial Aid & Technology.

Open Lab Opportunity

Did you know that Arizona College offers open lab for current Medical Assisting and Phlebotomy students that would like some additional assistance with their lab skills? Our open lab is monitored by one of our Medical Assisting Instructors. The open lab hours are Monday-Thursday, from 12:15p-1p for morning students, and Monday-Thursday from 5p-6p for evening students.

All students who would like to participate must complete an orientation which includes a lecture and a short quiz. Students must pass with an 80% minimum to participate. The open lab orientation is Mondays at 12:15p for morning students and 5:15p for evening students.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ms. Simon, Medical Assisting and Phlebotomy Program Director.

Immunization Reminder:

All students must submit proof of Immunizations to Ms. Campos in the Student Services Department. This documentation is required prior to the end of the students initial 10 week term at Arizona College and is required prior to externship and graduation.

- If you cannot locate your immunizations, contact the high school you attended and ask for a copy of the records.
- If you need updated immunizations and do not have insurance and need to be referred, please contact Ms. Campos in the Student Services Department for a list of facilities that partner with Arizona College to provide these services to students at a discounted fee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Abbas Khayami, D.C.</td>
<td>Diann Tate, CPhT.</td>
<td>Better Health Solutions</td>
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<td>Amy Strunk, B.S., CPhT</td>
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<td>Jothi Nadarajah D.M.D.</td>
<td>Arizona Medical Clinic</td>
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<td>Kathy Donner</td>
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<td>Lalit Mansukhani, R.Ph., M.S.</td>
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<td>Wanda Darling</td>
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