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————PHOTO/NEWS OPPORTUNITY————

A big step toward the future ... Fifty-one Flour Bluff High School students receiving DMC Health Sciences pins and certificates tomorrow night, May 13, at FBHS Auditorium

Students' preparation for healthcare careers include one or more program certifications, including Electrocardiography, Phlebotomy, Patient Care Technician and Basic Medical Assistant

WHO: Fifty-one (51) Flour Bluff High School (FBHS) junior and senior students who have completed one or more Del Mar College (DMC) Continuing Education Health Sciences Programs to earn certifications; Dr. Leonard Rivera, DMC Dean of Continuing Education & Off-Campus Programs; Velma Soliz-Garcia, Flour Bluff Independent School District (FBISD) Superintendent; FBHS Interim Principal Linda Medley; other DMC and FBHS and FBISD representatives; selected family members attending the ceremony and following safety protocols established by FBISD

WHAT: Pinning Ceremony for 51 Flour Bluff High School Students Earning One or Multiple Certificates through Del Mar College Continuing Education Health Sciences Program

WHEN: 6 p.m. Thursday, May 13 (tomorrow)

WHERE: Flour Bluff High School Auditorium, 2505 Waldron Road
(directions and map: [click here](#))

VISUALS: After Del Mar College and Flour Bluff ISD officials make congratulatory remarks, FBHS students (juniors and seniors) who have completed DMC Health Sciences Programs—some finishing more than one credential—will participate during a traditional pinning ceremony and receive their certificates of completion while selected family members cheer them on.

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FYI: A shortage of healthcare professionals was already an industry challenge before the pandemic. Now more than ever, individuals eyeing careers in healthcare are needed locally, statewide and across the nation to fill gaps in the workforce.

For 51 Flour Bluff High School students who participated in the Health Sciences Program partnership between Del Mar College and Flour Bluff ISD, they now have a head start toward a career in healthcare, many earning credentials in more than one discipline offered by the DMC Continuing Education & Off-Campus Programs Division.

DMC and FBISD will hold a pinning ceremony tomorrow night, May 13, beginning at 6 p.m. at the FBHS Auditorium to honor these dedicated students who have completed or are completing training and certification in one or more of the following disciplines: Electrocardiography (EKG), Phlebotomy, Patient Care Technician and Basic Medical Assistant.

“Earning one in-demand national credential for a healthcare-related job is an achievement, but earning four credentials simultaneously is nothing short of an awesome feat of determination and steadfastness,” said Dr. Leonard Rivera, Dean of DMC’s Continuing Education & Off-Campus Programs Division. “As partners, Flour Bluff ISD and Del Mar have set-up a state-of-the-art healthcare program that allows students to earn national credentials in four different areas and prepare for careers in an industry looking for well-prepared professionals.”

“We are incredibly proud of our Hornets who will graduate in May from Flour Bluff High School with career-ready skills,” said Velma Soliz-Garcia, Flour Bluff ISD Superintendent of Schools. “Our continued partnership with Del Mar College ensures we develop life-long learners who are equipped with the necessary skills to compete and thrive in the healthcare industry.”

Taught by DMC faculty using the latest healthcare technology on-site at FBHS, these students underwent extensive theory and clinical skills training in one or more of the four programs offered by the College. Coursework is designed to prepare participants for National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) examinations for their certification upon program completion.

Students earn Continuing Education Units, or CEUs, that can be used toward a certificate or an associate’s degree if they pursue further studies at the college level. Thursday night’s honorees, which includes FBHS juniors and seniors, completed training in one or more of the following areas:

- **Electrocardiography:** 64-hour program that awards 6.4 CEUs. Training covers the fundamentals of cardiovascular anatomy and physiology as well as basic electrocardiography procedures, including interpretation of basic dysrhythmias and appropriate treatment modalities. **Twenty-three (23) students are earning their credentials in this program.**

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- **Phlebotomy:** 96-hour program that awards 9.6 CEUs. Students develop skills by performing a variety of blood collection methods using proper techniques and universal precautions. **Twenty-four (24) students are earning their credentials in this program.**
- **Patient Care Technician:** 96-hour program that awards 9.6 CEUs. To participate, students are required to successfully complete both the EKG and Phlebotomy Programs as pre-requisites. Training includes basic patient care, clinical procedures, patient safety and routine office/lab procedures. **Twenty-two (22) students are earning their credentials in this program.**
- **Basic Medical Assistant:** 166-hour program that awards 16.6 CEUs. To participate, students are required to successfully complete both the EKG and Phlebotomy Programs as pre-requisites. Training includes medical office operations, procedures and human relations skills; solving pharmaceutical calculation problems during preparation and distribution of drugs; competency in basic math commonly used in the medical profession; and an overview in ICD (International Classification of Diseases) and CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) coding and claims forms for medical services reimbursement. **Twenty-seven (27) students are earning their credentials in this program.**

“Flour Bluff High School healthcare students will be well positioned to immediately enter the healthcare industry or use their knowledge and credentials toward furthering their post-secondary education in one of many related careers,” noted Dr. Rivera. “Today’s high school healthcare students will be tomorrow’s registered nurses, nurse practitioners or medical doctors caring for all of us in the future.”