

S.T.E.P.S To Retention: Stories, Tips, Examples, Practices, and Successes

Issue 1

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Dr. Dawe's Corner



Retention and student success appropriately receives a great deal of our attention at Ozarka College. We are doing a very good job supporting students and enabling them to remain in college to achieve their educational goals. Our support programs

including Trio, Career Pathways and Student Success Center are among the best in the state and are examples for any college to model. What really sets us apart, I believe, is our unwavering desire to constantly find new and innovative ways to serve our students who most need the support. The importance of making first generation students feel welcome, comfortable, and capable cannot be overemphasized. I know many of our faculty and staff join me in having first-hand experience in how big a difference this can make. Every person employed by Ozarka College can make a difference and play a role on a daily basis in contributing to our students' suc-

cess by taking additional steps to meet someone's needs whenever we have the opportunity. We don't always think about it but often the smallest level of support can make a big difference in someone's life.



The Success of the Nursing Programs at Ozarka College

The LPN and RN programs at Ozarka College are very successful programs with both high retention and graduation rates. When combining the number of returning students with graduating students in the LPN Program, the success rate is 90% over the past four academic years. In regards to graduation and testing rates, the success rate of the RN program over the past three years is 92%. Another outstanding accomplishment is that of the most recent graduating classes of the daytime LPN programs at Ash Flat, Melbourne, and Mountain View, the pass

rate for students who have attempted the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX-PN) is at 100%.

Ruby Johnson, the Department Chair of the Allied Health Division at Ozarka College, mentions several reasons for the success of the nursing programs. She notes the importance of the testing and selection process for admitting students with a better chance of completing the LPN or RN program. She mentions how expectations are relayed upfront to students entering the nursing programs through ori-

entation. During the LPN orientation process, Mrs. Johnson states that Dr. Dawe addresses the students and tells them that the LPN program is the most rigorous program on campus.

The testing that is done within the LPN and RN programs is also very important to student success. Mrs. Johnson states that benchmark and predictor tests are important in showing students the areas for improvement and chances of passing the NCLEX exam, which is required for licensure. (Continued on Page 2)

OZARKA COLLEGE



Ozarka College Provides Life-Changing Experiences Through Education

The Success of the Nursing Programs at Ozarka College (Continued From Page 1)

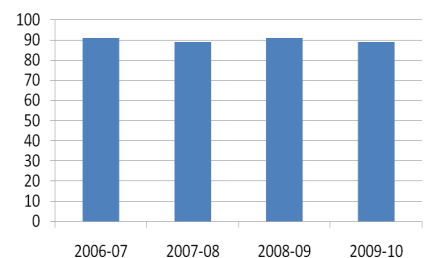
Consistency in instruction has been important to the success of the nursing programs. Great instructors have helped the nursing programs to both grow and prosper. In recent years, LPN programs have been added at the Ash Flat and Mountain View campuses. A nighttime/weekend LPN program has also been added at the Melbourne campus.

The number of students allowed into the Ozarka RN program, as part of the ARNEC nursing program, has increased in recent years as well. Before 2008, 10 students were accepted into the program. In 2008, seating was raised to 20 students. Starting with the 2011 program, the number of students allowed into the program will be 40 students. According to Mrs. Johnson, the rapid growth of the

nursing programs is due to the success and demand of these programs.

The following charts display the success rates for the LPN and RN programs in terms of percentages. For the LPN program chart listed, success is defined in terms of returning students and those who graduated the program. The LPN chart covers the last four academic years. For the RN program, the graduation rates represent those who graduated from the RN program and passed their NCLEX-RN exam successfully. The RN chart covers the last three years.

Ozarka College LPN Program Success Rates



Ozarka College RN Program Graduation Rates

