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NGTC Nursing Students Participate in Clinical Rotation at State Prison

North Georgia Technical College’s Associate of Science in Nursing students and Practical Nursing students are once again preparing to do a portion of their clinical studies at Lee Arrendale State Prison in Habersham County. “Clinicals are a vital and important part of a nurse’s education,” says Practical Nursing Program Director Nancy Morris. Students will be assigned to various duties such as assisting nursing staff with patient care, responding to urgent care calls, and assisting visiting doctors within the prison’s medical clinic.

Lee Arrendale State Prison is one of 6 female correctional facilities in the state of Georgia and houses approximately 1500 female offenders. LASP also serves as the state wide intake and diagnostics facility. All female offenders are initially sent to LASP for a complete physical and psychological profile before being dispersed throughout the system. Students will have the opportunity to assist nursing staff with these medical examinations as part of their clinical education.

Wellness Nurse Jacque Bahre and Director of Nursing Linda Lister from Lee Arrendale State Prison came to NGTC’s Clarkesville campus to provide an orientation for the nursing students prior to their rotation at the prison. Bahre and Lister explained to the eager students the primary functions of correctional nursing staff and what they could expect from their time spent working inside the facility. Another key topic emphasized by LASP staff and NGTC instructors was the importance of safety and security procedures. Students received detailed instructions on prohibited items, how to interact with inmate patients, and the importance of confidentiality.

Melessa Alley is a current ASN student and the President of her class. She has approximately eighteen years of experience as an LPN but is returning to NGTC to complete her Associate of Science in Nursing degree, often referred to as Registered Nursing. Most of the students in her class also have some medical experience as CNAs or LPNs but several are new to the nursing profession. Alley is excited for the opportunity not only for herself, but for her fellow classmates as
well. “Hands-on experience is invaluable to a new nurse.” She continues, “Clinicals give us a chance to interact with patients and see things in person that you have read about in class.”

For more information on North Georgia Technical College’s nursing programs or to attend the next Nursing Informational Session please contact Dr. Angela Butler, at 706-754-7829; abutler@northgatech.edu or Nancy Morris at 706-779-8108; nmorris@northgatech.edu. Additional information can also be found at www.northgatech.edu.

Pictured: LASP Wellness Nurse Jacque Bahre briefs NGTC nursing students on clinical procedures.

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