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Habersham Central Dual Enrolled students graduate from NGTC

Habersham Central High School Honors Day was also a graduation celebration for students who had dual enrolled with North Georgia Technical College. During both the Senior Honors Day and the Junior and Sophomore Honors Day, students who had completed the Nurse Aide program through North Georgia Technical College received a pin signifying their accomplishment.

"It is so special to honor these high school students who are also students at North Georgia Tech," said NGTC President Dr. Gail Thaxton. "Your future is bright, and we commend you for your outstanding accomplishments."

The Nurse Aide program at HCHS is a certificate program administered by North Georgia Technical College. Students may enroll and complete the entire one-year program while on campus at Habersham Central High School. Credits for each class count towards both the High School requirements for graduation and also the NGTC requirements for graduating from the Nurse Aide Certificate program.

The HCHS juniors who completed this program in 2015 included Sarah Cantrell, Tinsley Elizabeth Carter, Alissa Jean Galloway, Alexandria Kelley, Alexis Oxner, and Breanna Pitts. Seniors who complete the program were honored during Senior Honors Day and included Hannah Adams, Yesenia Benavides, Cintya Higareda, Tina Inkeo, Jodi Key, Marissa Maness, Elvira Martinez, Brenda Mendoza, Blake Nations, Abigail Rinehart, April Thompson, and Hannah Welborn. Seniors also received a special honor cord for graduation to identify them as dual enrolled students.

At the Junior and Sophomore Honors Day, Dr. Thaxton was on hand to personally pin each of the juniors with the symbol of their new profession. "This pin signifies the completion of this program and also the beginning of a new career," she said. "Just think, these students actually received a college credential before graduating from High School!"

Students who complete the program are eligible to sit for the national Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) exam and may be employed in a variety of health care facilities. In June, the students may take the state licensing exam in the new testing site at Habersham Central High School.

"I am very proud of all of these students," said Instructor Kim Randall. "They completed a 150-hour program with both lecture and clinical lab time. They worked hard and now they have a certificate to sit for the state exam to become Certified Nursing Assistants."

For more information on dual enrollment at North Georgia Technical College, contact Eric Miller, emiller@northgatech.edu, 706-754-7797, or visit www.northgatech.edu.

Photo: (L-R): NGTC President Dr. Gail Thaxton, Nurse Aide Graduates Breanna Pitts, Alexis Oxner, Alexandria Kelley, Alissa Jean Galloway, Tinsley Elisabeth Carter, Sarah Cantrell, and NGTC Student Navigation and Retention Director Kallan Williams.