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# inquiziKidz

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**kidzbiz**

## Honors Student Sets New Goals

James Clemons is an honors student and a certified nursing assistant who knows what he wants. He is motivated to learn, work hard, and help others. A dually enrolled graduating senior, James is a full time student completing the Patient Care Assistant (PCA) program at MTI East Campus. While a full time student at MTI, James is also completing his high school courses on-line through the Florida Virtual School and will graduate from Southeast High School in a few weeks.



Many have inspired James as he pursues his studies in the allied health field. His high school advanced biology teacher sparked his interest in the health field. His aunt has been a nurse for more than 15 years and he works with his mother at the Life Care

Center of Sarasota. Armed with his CNA license, that he earned his junior year of high school, James enrolled in an accounting class at MTI. He soon learned he liked the hands-on medical, not the business, facets of the health care profession.

James likes to help people. "I like to make my patients smile. Some patients do not have family to visit them. I am making a difference in their lives and this makes me happy." In addition to making others smile, James loves to learn. "It fascinates me to learn something new everyday." He has been accepted at the University of Central Florida and Valencia Community College in Orlando. Wherever James chooses to attend, he will be successful as he pursues his goal to graduate college with a double major in psychology and nursing. His future career goal is to open a day treatment center for Alzheimer's patients. James will achieve all his goals.

## Patient Care Assistant

The Patient Care Assistant (PCA) Program at Manatee Technical Institute East Campus prepares students with the competencies they need to work in long-term care facilities, hospitals, and home health care. Students are trained to work closely with medical professionals learning how to monitor patients' well-being and assist them with daily living skills such as bathing, dressing, feeding and transferring from a bed to a chair and vice versa. Students also learn to administer CPR and practice first aid.

The PCA program combines the certified nursing assistant (CNA) program with a more in-depth knowledge of body systems and common disorders such as heart attacks and hypertension. Students learn advanced performance skills needed to better assist medical personnel in treating these and other maladies. Successful completion of the PCA program prepares certified nursing assistant and patient care assistant students for the National Nurses Aide Assessment. CNA students can take the exam whenever they want and continue in the PCA program further advancing their knowledge and skills. The exam includes a written and skills performance evaluation; both are required for certification placement on the Florida Nursing Assistant Registry for CNA's. On average, patient care assistants can earn \$11 - \$12 per hour. And, in some settings patient care assistants may earn as much as \$15 per hour and up.

MTI East Campus is proud of its PCA students who have successfully competed in both national and state level events. This year a PCA student earned a silver medal at Florida HOSA (Health and Occupational Students of America) competition and will compete against colleagues at the national competition to be held this summer in California. Another PCA student will compete in the SkillsUSA competition in Kansas City, Kansas.

The 290-hour patient care assistant class is open to high school seniors and adult students. Each class size is limited to 14 students. Start dates for the next incoming classes are August 2006 and January 2007.

**School biz**

## From the Corps to the Classroom

Diane Mathe has served both her country and her community. As a U.S. Navy nurse for nine years, she was immediately thrust into a leadership position training corpsmen – the Navy's equivalent of certified nursing assistants. A registered nurse, Diane was called back to active duty during Desert Storm.



Stationed in California, she trained the corps in a time of need. For Diane, teaching and leaning has always been important. Diane holds a master's degree in nursing (MSN) and has taught at both the community college and university level educating and mentoring students as they earned their associates and bachelors degrees in nursing. Teaching high school students in the PCA program at MTI has been an incredibly rewarding experience for Diane. It is satisfying for her to see high school students care for the elderly who have so many physical ailments as well as those who have been afflicted with Alzheimer's. She recently experienced first hand her students' maturity, enthusiasm and proficient skills as they cared for their patients. She loves "to see the WOW factor in students' faces as they learn and practice their skills." Diane is serving her community and high school students in Manatee County.

## explore it

Obtain a copy of your local newspaper and read through the allied health job listings. Look for Patient Care Assistant (PCA) and Certified Nurses Care (CNA) positions. How many opportunities are available in Manatee County? Make a list of the opportunities. Call the employer and inquire about salary, benefits and opportunities for advancement. Go online search some of the excellent job resource websites for career opportunities for Patient Care Assistants in Manatee County. The jobs are out there... so don't wait any longer if you want to work in allied health care field. Manatee Technical Institute East Campus Patient Care Assistant Program will prepare you for your new career.



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