



**COWLEY  
COLLEGE**

# **Allied Health Center NEWSLETTER**

**Spring 2009**

## **Allied Health Department Overview**

2009 has already been an excellent year for the Allied Health department. In January, eleven MICT graduates were honored for their accomplishments at the annual MICT graduation event. This year, noted EMS author and lecturer Dr. Bryan Bledsoe presented the Keynote address to the students and about 150 friends and family in attendance. Dr. Bledsoe reminded the students that although their initial education was complete, they need to stay abreast of changes in the medical field. Dr. Bledsoe also wrote an article about his experience at Cowley, titled *Success in the Heartland*, which can be found at [http://www.jems.com/news\\_and\\_articles/columns/Bledsoe/success\\_in\\_the\\_heartland.html](http://www.jems.com/news_and_articles/columns/Bledsoe/success_in_the_heartland.html).

Program improvements continue to be made in all areas of the Allied Health department. We are currently updating the curricula in the MICT program and Medical Coding programs, and we're making changes to several individual courses. We are dedicated to providing the most relevant, up-to-date, and highest quality education available, and these updates allow us to provide our students with an excellent educational experience. Many of these updates are driven by advisory committee recommendations, and from information received from our communities of interest. If you would like to see a new course or a change made to an existing course, please contact us.

## **Cowley College Partners with Barton County to Offer MLT Degree**

Cowley College has partnered with Barton County Community College to bring Barton's nationally accredited Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program to south central Kansas to help meet the current regional demand for qualified healthcare professionals.

The MLT associate degree program consists of online coursework combined with clinical training in several local medical laboratories, and prepares students to work in hospitals, physician offices, and other high demand areas.

The MLT degree program may also be utilized as a 'stepping-stone' to further education to become a medical technologist, physician assistant or physician.

"This is an excellent opportunity for students in south central Kansas to complete the MLT program without leaving the area." said Chris Cannon, Cowley College Allied Health Department Chair. "Barton has one of the top MLT programs in Kansas, and I'm excited to have this opportunity to partner with them."

There is currently a national shortage of medical laboratory professionals, and the demand for medical laboratory technicians (MLT) and medical laboratory technologists (MT) is expected to grow by 15-25 percent over the next decade, with Kansas being on the high end.

"Barton Community College welcomes an opportunity to partner with Cowley College to help meet the shortage of laboratory professionals in Kansas," said Cheryl Lippert, Barton County MLT Program Director. "With this collaboration, both colleges make the MLT degree attainable for more people, no matter their responsibilities or distance from a college."

The medical laboratory is vital to healthcare, and laboratory professionals play a crucial role in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of disease. It is estimated that 70 percent of medical decisions involve laboratory test results.

"The thing they really need in the laboratory is knowledgeable and skilled workers, this program will help meet those health care needs," said Slade Griffiths, Cowley College vice president of Academic Affairs. "Barton (County) has a long tradition of providing outstanding education training in the MLT arena. This partnership truly is a win-win situation for the students and both institutions. The students can acquire classes locally and the schools are able to provide this program in a cost effective fashion."

Griffiths praised the work done by Chris Cannon, Cowley College Allied Health Department Chair; Leonard Bunselmeyer, Jr., Barton County Executive Director of Healthcare; Cowley College president Dr. Patrick J. McAtee, and Barton County president Dr. Carl Heilman. "Those four all worked very hard to make this a reality," Griffiths said.

The MLT program begins in August. Prerequisite courses, including phlebotomy, may be obtained through Cowley College. For more information about the program or to enroll, please call 620-229-5985.

## EMS Education

**18 Month Andover MICT Program Starts in August, 2009**  
**12 Month Winfield MICT Program Starts in January, 2010**

**NOW IS THE TIME TO APPLY!**

**[www.cowley.edu/mict](http://www.cowley.edu/mict)**

There are thirty MICT students currently enrolled in the two Cowley MICT program cohorts. These students represent the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> MICT cohorts taught at Cowley. We take great pride in our nationally accredited MICT, and we are continually working to improve the program to make it more student-friendly and to improve outcomes and success rates. Our MICT graduates treat over 80,000 patients every year in both the prehospital and in-hospital settings.

The Cowley EMS Advisory Committee meets on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. This regular meeting will serve as an update session for the committee members, and several changes to the MICT curriculum for the EMS program will be discussed.

There are currently two EMT-Basic programs in session, one each at our Winfield and Mulvane campuses. Chet Ranzau and Dee Little are the lead instructors for these courses, and they continue to produce excellent EMT-B graduates. **We will also hold an accelerated EMT-Basic course on the Arkansas City campus this summer, starting in May and running through August.** Chet will instruct this course. Please contact us if you are interested in enrolling.

Cowley will also offer several non-credit courses this year. These courses will include topics such as 12-Lead ECG interpretation and are designed for EMS professionals who are already practicing. Please check the Cowley EMS webpage frequently for updated course offerings throughout this semester.

### 12-month (Day) MICT Program

There are 14 students currently enrolled in the 12-month program here at Cowley. These students are currently working on the didactic portion of the program and will be starting their clinical rotations this summer. These students have noted many benefits from new manikins available to them. The 12-lead

manikin is helping them learn correct placement of leads and other new manikins have helped them work on realistic scenarios.

### 18-Month MICT Program

The students in the evening class are about to be finished with the clinical portion of class, and moving into Field Internship. The students will be doing their Field Internships with Sedgwick County, Arkansas City, Butler County, and Winfield area EMS. During the next three months, students will log more than 500 hours on an ambulance treating patients and practicing their skills with a qualified paramedic preceptor.

### Meet the Staff

This new section of our newsletter is to provide our readers with some information about our MICT staff instructors. Cowley currently employs around 20 part-time staff instructors for the MICT program. These instructors have full-time jobs at local EMS services, fire departments, and air ambulance services. Our staff instructors have over 200 years of combined EMS experience, and they share this expertise with our students in the classroom, lab, clinical and field settings. Our staff instructors are one of the greatest strengths of our MICT program, and we would not be successful without them.

#### Craig Isom

#### MICT Lab Assistant/Clinical Coordinator – Advanced

**Education:** Cowley College (MICT, AGS), Southwestern College (BS)

**Certifications:** MICT, NREMT-P, TOII, ACLS-I, AMLS-I, BCLS-I, PALS-I, PEPP-I, PHTLS-I

**Awards:** 1999 Lyle E. Eckhart Award, 2008 Cowley Young Achiever

**Biography:** Craig completed the Cowley MICT program in 1999 where he received the Lyle E. Eckhart Award for the class. Craig is currently employed as a full time paramedic Lieutenant by Winfield Area EMS. He holds an AGS degree from Cowley College and a BS degree in business administration from Southwestern College. He has worked as an adjunct faculty member at Cowley since 1998. Craig was awarded the 2008 Cowley College *Young Achiever Award*, which is awarded each year to a Cowley employee under the age of 40 who has made a positive impact on the community. In addition to teaching for the MICT program, Craig also teaches several online courses each semester, including pharmacology, medical terminology and ECG interpretation. Craig lives in Winfield with his daughters Abby and Reese.



### CCEMTP<sup>SM</sup> Program

Cowley College, in association with The University of Maryland, Baltimore County, is proud to bring the nationally recognized Critical Care Emergency Medical Transport Program to Kansas on June 7-18, 2010. The CCEMTP<sup>SM</sup> program is an intense, 84+ hour course featuring the following:

- Physician led lectures and clinicals
- State of the art training equipment
- Clinical rotations at a Level I trauma center
- Cadaver lab



Cowley has partnered with Midwest Lifeteam, Wesley Medical Center, and Wichita State University to bring this one of a kind educational experience to you. Course cost is \$1,000 plus books, and the Cowley dorms and cafeteria will be available for use at a very reasonable rate during the program. Paul Misasi, Cowley College CCEMTP<sup>SM</sup> Coordinator, has been instrumental in setting up this program. If you are interested in CCEMTP<sup>SM</sup>, please contact Chris Cannon at [cannon@cowley.edu](mailto:cannon@cowley.edu).

## EMS Instructor/Coordinator Class

Cowley College will offer an EMS Instructor/Coordinator class this June in Arkansas City. This course will be a traditional, 2-week long I/C class. Successful course completers will be eligible for certification as a Kansas I/C. Please contact Chris Cannon at [cannon@cowley.edu](mailto:cannon@cowley.edu) for more information about this course.

## Leadership Program

With demand for the leadership program at an all time high, we've expanded our excellent teaching staff this semester. Tracy Wolf has joined the leadership instructional team, and brings with her a vast amount of collegiate and online teaching experience. Welcome aboard Tracy!

A new course titled Teams and Leadership was recently added to the leadership curriculum as an elective. Emily Brown developed the course and will teach it this semester. The course will provide information on leadership strategies in team based organizations.

We offer both online and on-ground leadership courses. Students may complete the entire leadership program online if they wish, or they may take selected courses in on-ground sessions at Cowley campuses. Emphasis areas in EMS and Business leadership are available, and all faculty members are graduate level or higher.

If you would like to enroll in a successful, proven program contact Chris Cannon, [cannon@cowley.edu](mailto:cannon@cowley.edu).

## Medical Office Division News

### Medical Coding Wage & Hiring Update

The future looks great for Medical Coding students! According to the Bureau of Labor & Statistics the field of Medical Coding will continue a steady growth trend until at least the year 2016. We can expect to see an increase in job demand as well as wages.

These are the current figures on wages & hiring for Medical Coding:

Currently Medical Coding is listed under the Medical Records occupations statistically.

Median hourly wage: \$12.25

Average starting wage: \$11.13

Statewide Occupational Long-Term Demand: From the current date until 2016 the State of Kansas is expecting at least an overall 18% increase in the Medical Records/Medical Coding occupation. They list a possible projected increase of 42.5%.

Statewide Job Recruiting: An average of 120 openings are available daily. 89% of job vacancies are filled within 30 days.

Source: Bureau of Labor & Statistics

A recent survey conducted by AAPC found an 18% difference in wages between non-certified coders and certified coders. According to AAPC, "It is our belief that employers that employ certified coders improve their accuracy of billings and cash flow and reduce their risk of audit by engaging certified coders; and by more than 18%. There is a solid return on investment for those that certify their coders."

Our students will have a lot to offer these prospective employers as they will have received a solid return on their educational investment through our Medical Coding program.

## **CNA and Related Education**

We are busy teaching a great group of students who want to enter the healthcare field by completing the CNA course. Additionally, we are continually teaching CMA courses and the LPN IV certification class. Please visit our web page or give us a call for more information.

## **Sports Medicine – Athletic Trainer Program**

The sports medicine (athletic training) program continues to do well at the Cowley main campus. All students, along with both instructors/trainers, have been very busy with classes and with taking care of our student athletes this year.

## **Allied Health Technology Days**

Cowley MICT instructors and current MICT students Dillon McArthur and Stacy Hatcher, in conjunction with the Cowley CTE department, presented informational meetings for local area high school students at both Ark City and Mulvane. Students were able to ask questions about their possible future careers, and were able to do hands-on skills with various pieces of EMS equipment.

## **Nursing Home Administrator (AIT) Program**

The health care industry is currently experiencing a nationwide shortage of qualified health care workers, including administrators of long term care facilities. Cowley College offers the Administrator in Training Program (AIT), designed to accommodate the flexibility students need today. Students can start the program whenever they desire and have two years to complete the required 680 clock hour practicum required by Cowley at a KDHE approved long term health care facility in Kansas. Students are also required to complete two online leadership classes (three credit hours each for a total of six hours) of their choice offered by Cowley College. Following the tenets of adult education, students pick the most appropriate classes for their individual needs.

## **Pratt Community College RN Program at Winfield Allied Health Center**

The current nursing students in the PCC Winfield courses are about half done with their year. PCC will start two more nursing cohorts in Winfield in August, 2009. Interested future students are encouraged to contact Janet Bogle, PCC Winfield Coordinator/Instructor at 620-229-5993.

The Pratt MICT to RN bridge program will start in August, 2009. This program will have both online and on ground learning components. More information, including prerequisites and curriculum information is available by contacting the Pratt nursing office at [nursinginfo@prattcc.edu](mailto:nursinginfo@prattcc.edu).

## Allied Health Faculty and Staff

**Name/Position:**

Chris Cannon, Department Chair  
Janet Bogle, Nursing Coordinator  
Cindy Branscum, Lead MICT Instructor  
Deryk Ruddle, MICT Instructor  
Jeff Fluty, Athletic Trainer  
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Bruce Irwin, AIT Coordinator  
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