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Summer 2014

CCC students in Page can still earn an associate degree without leaving Page

PAGE, Ariz. - When Coconino Community College announced it would be moving from a campus to an instructional site, many thought it was the end of higher education in Page.

Page Instructional Site Director Jim Hunter emphasizes that it is not the case.

"Higher education is alive and well in Page, but it will look different," Hunter said.

Instead of eight full-time people, there will be two full-time employees and one part-time employee. Hunter stressed that Page learners can still earn an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies (AAGS) or an Arizona General Education Curriculum Certificate without ever leaving Page.

"The main difference between an instructional site and a campus is that, according to the Higher Learning Commission, the governing body that grants accreditation to Colleges, in order to be called a campus the Page instructional site would have to have full-time instructors delivering instruction," Hunter said.

Although there will not be full-time faculty on staff in Page, learners will still be able to earn the same credits through three different instructional methods, such as traditional in-class lectures delivered by part-time instructors, online classes and Interactive television (ITV) classes where students will be able to watch lectures live on a television screen at the Page site. ITV classes will be delivered by full- and partime instructors in Flagstaff. CCC remains committed to improving technology, including ITV classes with clearer picture and sound, Hunter said.

The Associate of Arts degree in General Studies is designed for students who either have undeclared majors or who are developing a general or liberal studies emphasis. The Coconino Community College AGEC Curriculum in Arts (A) Certificate is the core of the general studies degree and is comprised of a minimum of 35 credits. The other 25 credits required must be completed by taking other CCC general education core curriculum courses.

Students completing the AGEC 35-credit certificate or the 60-64 credit Associate of General Studies degree can transfer credits to any of Arizona's three public universities: Arizona State University.

Northern Arizona University or the University of Arizona. Students planning to transfer to a university other than ASU, NAU or U of A should see an advisor. It is important to note that one of the full-time positions remaining in Page is a full-time advisor, so students can make an appointment in Page to discuss their path with this advisor. Page students also have the option of meeting with advisors in Flagstaff.

"The combination of continued state cuts to community colleges and a failed property tax override attempt has forced us to re-evaluate how we serve our county," said Page District Governing Board member Lloyd Hammonds. "Coconino Community College has had to operate on a lean budget since its inception, first adopting an award-winning Financial Sustainability Plan in 2008, and now the Financial Austerity Plan. I am confident that through the use of technology and the commitment of our staff, faculty and the District Governing Board, we can still have a positive impact on the citizens of Coconino County."

CCC graduates record-breaking 21 U.S. military veterans this year



Coconino Community College graduated 21 U.S. military veterans at its May 9 Commencement, which is the most in the College's history.

The success is due in part to the opening of a Veterans Center at the Lone Tree campus in 2013.

"Nationally, the trend for community colleges is to create Veterans Centers," said Bob Voytek, CCC's Director of Financial Aid. "We're here to serve the community. We owe it to veterans, as a group, to serve them properly."

For the Veterans Center at CCC's Lone Tree campus, Voytek said the department is developing a survey to find out what types of services are needed at the College. The number of veteran students enrolled at CCC has increased from 173 in 2012 to 198 in 2013.

Reuben Salazar, CCC's Veterans Certifying Official, said he's witnessed what a difference the Center has made in creating a veteran community where veteran students can hang out, do their homework and share stories with others who have similar experiences.

"The Veterans Center is a place within the education environment to foster camaraderie," Salazar said.

The Center also fits in with the College's Strategic Plan of retaining students and increasing student services, Voytek said.

"We want the Veterans Center to foster a positive educational experience and eventually lead to long-term success of our veterans," he said.

CCC's Financial Austerity Plan begins July 1

Coconino Community College will implement its Financial Austerity Plan beginning July 1. This includes eliminating a core mission and several programs, converting the Page campus to an instructional site and downsizing the nursing program.

Budget challenges caused by a lack of state funding and a voter-rejected property tax override bid in November 2013 are reasons attributed to the Coconino Community College District Governing Board's February decision to eliminate one of the College's three core missions: Community and Corporate Learning (CCL).

The Community and Corporate Learning Division's primary function was to help local companies and their employees through custom training and development. The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will also be eliminated as one of the cost-saving measures. It is estimated that CCC's annual impact on the Coconino County economy is more than \$305 million.

"Our communities are putting forth a significant effort to strengthen the economic vitality of the region and the loss of these programs and services will have substantial impact on that effort," said Monica Baker, CCC's Dean of Career and Technical Education.

District Governing Board Chairman Patrick Hurley said, "Over the past few years the Governing Board has made many changes to insure the viability of CCC. There is no clear cut, single solution to the financial dilemma we face. As a result of the override failure, we have once again found it necessary to take a serious look at the College's position. The Board has spent many long hours over the past few months scrutinizing data and discussing the best course to take for the future of CCC. After examining the data

and the many possible scenarios, we are confident we have chosen the 'lesser of evils'. These were not easy choices for the Board."

In addition, northern Coconino County will also feel the impact of cuts with the conversion of the Page campus to an instructional site. Converting the campus to an instructional site will impact instructional delivery, hours of operation, services, and the classes offered to northern Coconino County.

"It is the District Governing Board's responsibility to ensure that the sustainability of the College is a priority and that we continue to serve Coconino County as a district," said CCC President Dr. Leah L. Bornstein. "They have had to make extremely tough decisions to achieve necessary results. The Financial Austerity Plan is necessary to identify time and resources the College needs to solidify the future."

Speculation from the Page community that the Board was considering closing the Page campus and strong support shown at the February District Governing Board meeting assisted board members who made the decision to convert the campus into an instructional site rather than close it.

Converting the Page campus to an instructional site will drastically reduce the number of classes offered. CCC may eliminate all full-time positions in Page, opting for part-time staff members charged with operating the scaled-down instructional site.

"Some classes will still be offered based on demand, and there will be a greater reliance on interactive television and online offerings for instructional delivery, said Dr. Russ Rothamer, CCC's Vice President of Academic Affairs. "The commitment to the dual enrollment program, where high school students can earn college credits at CCC while still

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Coconino County Supervisors' donation helps students in need

A donation from Coconino County's supervisors has helped dozens of high school students in Flagstaff, Fredonia, Page and Williams take college-level classes at Coconino Community College while still in high school.

District 2 Supervisor Liz Archuleta donated \$1,500, District 3 Supervisor Matt Ryan donated \$2,000 and District 5 Supervisor Lena Fowler donated \$5,000 from their Community Initiatives grants to cover the \$25 per credit hour fee for high school students in financial need.

CCC's partnership with local high schools

allows students to dual enroll in both Career and Technical Education and core academic courses. These courses allow students to earn both high school and CCC college credits simultaneously. The classes are taught at the high school, during the high school day, by high school teachers who meet the same credential requirement as college instructors teaching the same course.

Overall, dual enrollment increased 13 percent as a result of the scholarships, said Kathy Nesbit, CCC's former High School Transitions Coordinator. On average, more than 1,000 students participate each year in dual enrollment courses.

"The target of the scholarship is for students to be able to take a three-credit class at \$75," Nesbit said. "Some of these students would otherwise be unable to afford it. It doesn't matter if it's \$75 or 75 cents."

Archuleta's donation allowed for 12 Coconino High School students and 11 Flagstaff High School students to take a total of 28 college courses. Fowler's donation allowed for 45 credits to be taken at Fredonia High School and 45 students took 245 credits at Page High School. Ryan's donation allowed for six students to take 18 credit hours. The remaining funds in Williams will be available for students to use in the fall.

Classes vary from 3-4 credits each and were taken during the spring semester. Some of the subjects include: English, math, history, Navajo, Spanish and environmental biology.



Austerity Continued from page 1

attending high school, will continue."

Dean of Student Affairs Veronica Hipolito said, "Approximately 25 percent of CCC's student total population is Native American. In Page, well over 50 percent of the students attending classes at the former Page campus are Native American. And, unlike the Williams campus that was closed in 2013, students must now drive two hours to attend classes in Flagstaff, denying access to higher education for many."

Another program affected that will have a county-wide impact is the reduction of CCC's popular nursing program, which will be reduced by half. The program will shrink from 40 to 20 graduates per year. CCC's nursing program has consistently been recognized for excellence based on the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses (NCLEX) pass rates, consistently ranking among the highest of all community colleges in the state with an average pass rate of nearly 90 percent since 2007. The CCC nursing program has also been lauded for its nearly 100 percent employment placement rate.

"None of these options are without serious ramifications for students, employees, and our community." District Governing Board Chairman Hurley said. "CCC finds itself in this position NOT due to financial negligence but to a structural deficit due to the extremely low property tax rate that has existed since the College was established. The defunding of community colleges by the State has highlighted the devastatingly low County property tax support to the College and uncovered how severe this structural deficit is for CCC."

The latest round of cuts, including the reduction of the Page campus and revenue generation efforts are part of the College's Financial Austerity Plan and are in addition to cuts and revenue generation efforts that began when the College lost half of its state appropriations or \$3 million beginning in fiscal year 2008/2009 when the recession began. Over a three-year period, the College created a "Financial Sustainability Plan" of both revenue and expense options to bridge the gap.

Based on that plan, the College increased tuition by an additional \$13 per credit hour to increase revenues by \$1 million. In addition, the College cut \$2 million in programs and services including 25 full-time equivalent positions. Despite these measures, the College continues to have a structural deficit which means that expenses outpace revenues from year to year. The gap between revenues and expenditures is nearly 7 percent of the College's General Fund budget. The override special election in 2013 that was rejected by a majority of Coconino County voters would have filled the funding gaps for the next seven years.

In total, the Financial Austerity Plan, which will begin on July 1, 2014, will eliminate a \$1.3 million funding gap with two-thirds of the gap filled from budget cuts and one-third from revenue generation. Before the Community and Corporate Learning Division elimination, the College had three core missions: Arts and Sciences transfer/transition programs, Career and Technical Education, and Community and Corporate Learning.

The Financial Austerity Plan calls for the elimination of an additional 15 full-time jobs; 10 percent of CCC's full-time workforce.

"While it may be difficult for the community, our students and our employees to understand, the cuts and revenue generation initiatives are not designed to address our short-term needs but rather the sustainability of the institution over the next seven years," said Vice President of Business and Administrative Services Jami Van Ess.

Other programs and services that will be affected by the Financial Austerity Plan include:

- Elimination of the Early Childhood certificate and Education degree
- · Elimination of selected vacant positions
- · Elimination of the Dance program
- The reorganization of the Academic Affairs Division

The plan also calls for a revenue generation component of \$431,000 which will increase tuition by \$2 per credit hour and implement a differential tuition system. Differential tuition rolls in class fees and increases tuition for higher cost programs and was recommended by the Citizen's Review Panel, a group of community leaders who were asked to serve when the College District Governing Board was considering sustainability options, including the unsuccessful 2013 special election override. Other revenue generating initiatives include:

- Eliminating the plateau program: Currently students pay for all credits up to 15 and after 18.
- Implementation of a credit card convenience fee
- Implementation of a student "no show" fee
- Increase student and employee parking fees

"While it is our responsibility as elected officials to ensure the fiscal health of the institution, we recognize the impact of our decision on people - the dedicated employees, the hard working students and our supportive community members," said District Governing Board Vice Chair/Secretary Patricia Garcia.

Grant funding brings Degree Works to help students succeed

A new program at Coconino Community College is helping students stay on track to achieve their associate degree. Ellucian Degree Works is an easy-to-use online set of academic planning tools which helps CCC students see what courses and requirements they need to graduate.

"It's this type of forward-thinking technology that helps CCC students make better decisions with confidence," said Veronica Hipolito, CCC Dean of Student Services. "More motivated and empowered students mean improved completion rates, faster time to graduation and better student outcomes."

Here's how it works. The online program is a degree audit system that allows degree-seeking students to login and see what courses they still need to graduate, academic history and more. One particularly useful function is "What if?", which provides course planning and analysis information. This allows students to see what classes would be needed if they wanted to change their major or even whether a particular class would apply to a certain major.

It is taking out the guesswork and time to allow our academic advisors to provide more in-depth personal, consistent, and meaningful answers, Hipolito said. "Degree Works empowers students." she said.

Degree Works was paid for in part through a Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College & Career Training (TAACCCT) grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration. In October 2012, CCC was one of 79 community college consortia and individual institutions to receive money for community college career training programs.

At CCC, the College was tasked with expanding its award-winning CCC2NAU program, which helps students transition successfully to Northern Arizona University. The grant allows CCC to meet the workforce development needs of the region by equipping CCC2NAU graduates with the education and skills to obtain high-wage, high-skills employment.

The funding is working to build the staffing and technology infrastructure to expand the CCC2NAU program. While the grant targets the CCC2NAU program, a number of items funded by the grant, such as Degree Works, benefit the entire CCC population.惡

\$15.10 FOR EVERY TAXPAYER DOLLAR INVESTED \$167 million Annual Economic Growth \$305 million Added to the Economy (Economic growth + increased graduate

Page resident Carla Diamond is this year's Distinguished Service Award honoree

Coconino Community College recently honored Page resident Carla Diamond with its Distinguished Service Award. The award committee's selection was based on Diamond's contributions to community service, business and support of CCC.

Diamond, who was honored at this year's Commencement, has been a major supporter of the College, the Page campus in particular. As a member of the Page Community Foundation, Diamond helped with fundraising programs and events at CCC's Page campus. Diamond is one of the founding members of the annual *Life's a Ball* event and when the CCC Page campus took over that event, Diamond remained a major contributor to the event.

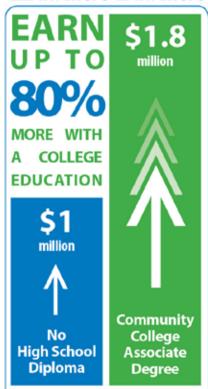
Diamond is the first to offer assistance to the College, both as the director of Page's National Bank of Arizona, and as an individual. For Life's a Ball, Diamond has outsold all other sellers combined. She allows the College to advertise its promotions in the bank and sends emails to her business and personal clients to promote the College. If there is a call for College volunteers, Diamond invariably shows up, usually with other bank employees, too.

Diamond is noted for her generosity throughout

the community, standing out above the rest. The cumulative effect of her fund raising and ticket sales efforts in Page has been remarkable, as has her constant advocacy. She has been and continues to be a lynch pin in our continuing effort to sustain the option of local, post-secondary education for the Page region.







2011 U.S. National Data Based On Lifetime Earnings

CCC student achieves her college degree while still in high school



Coconino Community College graduate Bailey Womble is the first to graduate with an associate degree from CCC while still in high school. She did it through the CAVIAT program, which allows high school students to take college courses.

Womble, who participated in CCC's May 9 Commencement ceremony, received her associate degree in pre-health careers. A week later, she received her high school diploma from Coconino High School.

The joint program between the College and Coconino Association for Vocations, industry and Technology (CAVIAT) allows students to take college classes and gain credits while still attending high school.

The CAVIAT program helped her to develop and succeed in multiple areas, said Womble, who was featured in a NAZ Today story.

"I now value and appreciate the opportunity to learn and grow. This experience has opened my eyes to a completely different world at a young age," she told NAZ Today. "The greatest things I gained during my four years in high school are self-confidence, self-learning and the realization of the importance of knowledge."



SMART FACTS

Where Does My Property Tax Dollar Go?



Coconino Coconino Community County College General 6% Fund



Coconino County Special Districts 8%



and Special lowns Districts 9% 11%



Other Education (excluding CCC) 60%

Coconino Community College received 6% of all 2013 property taxes collected by the Coconino County Treasurer, which supports the College's vision, mission and strategic goals. Percentage of tax distributions and taxing districts

Other 1% State Ald 12% Property Tax 45% FY13 General Fund Actual Revenues

ATTENTION TUITION UPDATE



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Standard fultion is now \$89 per credit hour.



Class fees are being eliminated in lieu of differential fultion, which ranges from \$94 - \$159 per credit hour.

See which classes are considered standard and which are specially: www.coconine.edu/funion-pricing. Talk to your advisor for more information.

ATTENTION

REGISTRATION UPDATE

AVOID ADDITIONAL FEES BY READING INFORMATION BELOW



= ALTERNATIVE

%

2.75" non-refundable fee for payment with credit card.
Pay with a check on line or through cash, check or debit
in-person to avoid a 2.75% fee.

0

\$40 no-show fee per credit hour. Is, 13 mill so a - \$400 so some the This fee is non-refundable and may be subject to students who don't attend first day of class.

Drop classes you do not plan on attending and attention registered classes to avoid this per-credit fee.

Tuition and registration changes for students

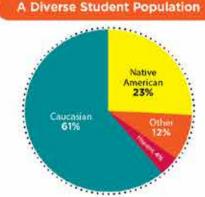
Part of Coconino Community College's Financial Austerity Plan calls for raising tuition for standard classes to \$89 per credit hour. Class fees were eliminated in lieu of differential turtion that ranges from \$94 to \$169 per credit hour. For example, specialty classes such as art are now \$109 per

credit hour.

The College has also implemented a \$40 per credit hour no show fee, which means if a student does not show up for the first day of class, the no show fee could be imposed. For a student taking 12 credit hours per semisster and she does not show up to her classes and does not drop, the no show fee could total \$480.

Another fee that students should be aware of is credit card convenience fee. Students will now be charged a 2.75 percent non-refundable fee for paying with a credit card. Student can avoid this by paying for their classes with an e-check online or in person with cash, check or debit card.





Fall 2012 Enrollment

Vital to Your Future

Coconino Community College is at the heart of education throughout all 18,000 square miles of Coconino County.

The CCC STAR is a publication of Coconino Community College

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Flagstaff Fourth Street Campus FMC Institute for Nursing Education 3000 N. Fourth St. Hagstaff, AZ 86004 928.526.7600

INSTRUCTIONAL SITES:

Page/Lake Powell Navajo Generating Station Technology Center 475 S. Lake Powell Blvd. Page, AZ 86040 928, 645, 3997 Williams

636. S. 7th St., Williams, AZ 86046 928.527.1222

For class offerings at Grand Canyon and Fredonia, call the Page Instructional Site.
For more information, please visit: www.coconinc.edu

Scan Here to Learn More About CCC



ERCA

CCC graduate completes part of her educational journey

Sue Owens considers herself on a journey.

After her husband died in 2010, her son encouraged her to go to college.

Coconino Community College was her first step.

"My life has always been an adventure, but I thought, 'I can't go back at my age,'" Owens said. A few encouraging words and she found her first step, enrolling at Coconino Community College.

"I have loved my time here. I've liked all my instructors and was so fortunate to have great advisors," she said.

Owens delivered the Student Address at the May 2014 CCC Commencement ceremony at the Lone Tree campus.

At CCC, Owens became involved first with the Volunteer Club and later was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. She joined the TRIO program where the tutoring and study skills workshops helped her maintain her 3.9 grade point average.

Owens graduated with her associate degree in general studies, with plans to study anthropology and museum studies at Northern Arizona University. She sees herself eventually working in a museum, where she can spur the interest or learning of others.

Below is an excerpt from her graduation speech: "If you are like me and are coming back to school after a long absence or just starting your educational journey, hold fast to your dream. As the famous comedian, Milton Berle once said: "If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." Rarely does opportunity fall from the sky and hit us on the head; sometimes we have to go after it and make it happen.

After my husband of almost 40 years passed away on Father's Day in 2010, my world was turned upside down. I felt lost and wondered what I was going to do with the rest of my life. I have never been one to just sit still; I have too much curiosity to do that. My son, Bruce said: "Mom, why don't you enroll at Coconino Community College and finish a degree. He knew I was always curious and loved learning but was always too busy working and raising my three children. Of course, I had the usual objections of being too old. I didn't know if my brain would still function as a student or if I would fit in. With the blessings of my family, I enrolled at CCC in August, just two months after the passing of

my husband.

I have been at CCC for four years now. I loved it here so much I just didn't want to leave, or it could be I am just a slow-study. In any event, going to CCC has been an awesome journey for me. I have made so many new friends, younger and older. In my opinion, my Instructors and advisors cannot be equaled anywhere else."



Nittmann honored to be 2013-2014 CCC Part-Time Faculty of the Year

CCC Biology instructor Shawn Nittmann loves to interact with the community, especially when activities include math and science. Nittmann has dedicated more than 20 years of his career to CCC.

Nittmann was named CCC's Part-Time Faculty of the Year for the 2013-2014 school year. He volunteers annually at events ranging from the Flagstaff Festival of Science's CCC Science Night, the Flagstaff Community STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Celebration to the Francis Short Memorial Pond at Thorpe Park, where he introduces young scientists of the future to the discovery of pond life and all types of living critters.

"I love working at CCC and knowing that what we all do makes a significant difference in our students' lives," Nittmann said. "Seeing my former students getting accepted into graduate schools and gaining employment in healthcare throughout the country is most rewarding. It feels great for me to know that I contributed to the education our students, which ultimately makes a vital difference for them and future generations to come."

CCC students nominated Nittmann for his award.

"Mr. Nittmann encourages discussion and

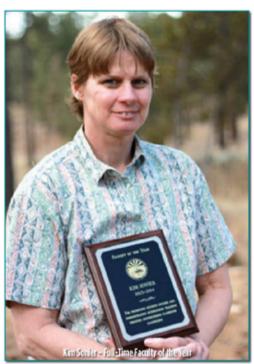
welcomes all questions and points of view during lectures and labs," wrote CCC student Katie Williams in her nomination. "He is always enthusiastic about the lessons and that enthusiasm is contagious in the classroom! Mr. Nittmann is a unique instructor with a keen awareness for knowing whether students truly grasp the material, or if they need further explanation or special help. Most notably, Mr. Nittmann makes learning biology fun and interactive. He possesses a passion for teaching math and the sciences with genuine enjoyment which is apparent and that makes the material enjoyable and easy to learn."

Formerly the Executive Director of Learning Enhancement Services and Adult Education at CCC, Nittmann has been with the College since 1993. In 2000, Nittmann was recognized as the CCC Administrative/ Professional Employee of the Year and in 2010 he was honored with the CCC Leadership Employee of the Year Award.

"This student-driven award means more to me than the other awards. I am humbled and surprised to have received this nomination," Nittmann said. "For me to be singled out in this way is totally unexpected and such a special honor, especially considering the other worthy nominees in this category."



Full-Time Faculty of the Year recipient Kim Sonier strives to make her students better problem solvers



For Coconino Community College math instructor Kim Sonier, one of her favorite things about teaching is that moment when a struggling student "just gets it."

Sonier, who was named Full-time Faculty of the Year for the 2013-2014 school year, is in her 12th year at CCC, where she teaches math, including pre-calculus and calculus.

"One of the cool things about being here is to watch a student grow from struggling, to working hard, to putting the pieces together and understanding what they're doing," Sonier said. "It's just amazing."

Sonier's goal in teaching math is that she wants her students to be brave and just try something to solve the problem. It may not always work, but they are getting a better idea on how things are connected and work together, she said.

"I want to make them into better problem solvers," Sonier said. She also tells her students not to rely so much on technology.

"Nowadays, you can get an answer instantly,"

Sonier said. "But we need to teach students how to think."

CCC students nominated Sonier for her award.

"Ms. Sonier is always there for us students. Even if she is out of the office, she allows us to email her our questions when she is at home so she can email us back with the help we need to understand the question," wrote CCC student Matthew Temple. "She makes math fun, exciting and, most importantly, understandable." 器



Students celebrate sweet success at Nurses Pinning ceremony

Coconino Community College pinned a new batch of 19 nurses recently at its Spring Nurses Pinning ceremony.

CCC President Dr. Leah L. Bornstein welcomed the May 2014 class at the Lone Tree campus.

"The nursing program is one of the crown jewels of all the programs at CCC and the pinning ceremony itself is one of the most heartfelt of all celebrations at the College," Bornstein said.

CCC Director of Nursing & Allied Health, Don Johnson, told the students and audience members that he is proud of the high standards CCC has set for the



nursing program and its students.

"I am confident that each and every one of you will be an outstanding example of what a nurse should be." Johnson said.

Student speakers/presenters of ceremonies, Quinton Brock and Timothy Jacobs delivered a personal and meaningful message to their cohort before the graduates were pinned during a candle lighting ceremony signifying their transition into the nursing profession. The CCC Nursing Program started in 2002 and for the past several years has graduated about 40 new nurses per year.