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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 19, 2008

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### MCC Continuing Education Division Graduates 44 Health Professionals

**WILLIAMSTON** – On Thursday, December 18, 2008 the Division of Continuing Education at Martin Community College (MCC) celebrated the graduation of 44 students from its popular Nurse Aide I, Nurse Aide II, and Phlebotomy health care program courses. Carolyn Pierce-Reyes, RN, lead nurse at Bertie Correctional Institution, served as the ceremony's featured speaker.

Introduced by daughter Chana White, a graduating student of the Nurse Aide II class, Pierce-Reyes started her talk by commending White on deciding to follow her footsteps into the nursing profession. With over 30 years' experience as a health care provider, Pierce-Reyes encouraged all the graduates to not only keep their patients' physical health in consideration but also the state of their mental and emotional well-being.

"Keep your hearts open and use the skills that you have learned to give your patients the best possible care that you can," said Pierce-Reyes.



The Nurse Aide program consists of Nurse Aide I and Nurse Aide II classes, offered during the day and at night on the College's main campus in Williamston and at the Bertie Campus in Windsor respectively. Upon successful completion of the course and skills evaluation, graduates can work under the direction and supervision of licensed personnel.

There were thirteen graduates of the MCC main campus Nurse Aide I course, taught by Russell Tranbarger, EdD, RN, FAAN. They are: Aja Andrews, Pamela Andrews, La'Wanna Bland, Sheneka Bowers, Bianca Clark, Virginia Jacobs, Lakevis Keyes, Joe Lewis, Jr., Patricia McArthur, Shieldnica Paxton, Shovione Paxton, Brittney Rawls, and Arthur White.

Graduates of the MCC Bertie campus Nurse Aide I night class are: Shelia Chamblee, JoAnn Connor, Natasha Freeman, Orlando Cedric Hill, Tina Jernigan, Brenetta Lee, Tammy Leggett Padgett, Rhonda Peele, Kimberly Ramsey, Markia Stancil, Lykeithia Renee Thompson, Shemeka Ward. The course instructor there was Loletha Ward, RN.

The Nurse Aide I course prepares graduates to perform nursing skills for patients or residents regardless of the setting and includes class, laboratory and clinical learning experiences. Upon satisfactory completion of the course, the graduate is eligible to sit for the North Carolina State written and skills examination through PearsonVue for listing with the Division of Health Services Regulation as a Nursing Assistant I.

The Nurse Aide II course prepares nursing assistants to perform more complex skills for patients or residents, with an emphasis on infection control. Students taking this class learn the principles of sterile dressing changes for wounds over 48 hours, the observation and maintenance of oxygen therapy, and their increased role as a member of the health care team. These graduates are eligible to submit their application for listing as a Nurse Aide II by the North Carolina Board of Nursing.

Graduates of the Nurse Aide II course, taught by Jessica Modlin, RN on MCC's main campus, are: Donella Andrews, Patrice Best, Verna Bell -Chapman, Lokesha Freeman, Kimberly Jenkins, Lori Jesch, Vivian Norman, Elizabeth Washington, Chana White, and Kavonda Williams.

The Phlebotomy course is designed to prepare students to draw blood specimens from patients for the purpose of testing and analyzing blood. It includes clinical experience, primarily in performing blood collections. Nine students completed the Phlebotomy course taught by Cynthia Coburn, MLT (ASCP) on MCC's main campus.

The graduates were: Mary Best, Amber Chess, Betsy Hardison, Belinda Howell, Lisa Leslie, Melissa Peaden, Kenyada Phillips, Michelle Smith, and Shameka Veale.

According to Walter Whitfield, MCC Executive Director of Continuing Education, the demand for Phlebotomy courses is so great that a second class will be offered on the College's Bertie campus starting February. Additionally, he noted that the College is looking to offer other health care courses to include: Dialysis Technician, Pharmacy Technician, EKG Technician, and Optometry Assistance. For more information about MCC's continuing education health care program courses, please contact Brenda G. Moore, Continuing Education Division, [bmoore@martincc.edu](mailto:bmoore@martincc.edu) or 252-792-1521 Ext. 236 or 248.

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Graduates of the Nurse Aide I class held on MCC's Main campus. Pictured far left is course instructor Russell Tranbarger, EdD,RN, FAAN.

Pictured are graduates of the Nurse Aide I night class held on MCC's Bertie campus. Far right in the grey suit is course instructor Loletha Ward, RN.



Graduates of the Nurse Aide II class held on MCC's Main campus. Pictured far right is course instructor Jessica Modlin, RN.

The student pictured immediately to Modlin's left is Chana White, daughter of Carolyn Pierce-Reyes, graduation ceremony featured speaker.

Pictured right are seven of the nine December 2008 Phlebotomy course graduates.

