

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CNA course plows through winter delays**

**Students meet afterhours, evenings to keep up with coursework**

Decorah High School has announced that it will continue to offer the Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) certified nursing assistant (CNA) course in the fall for interested students. The new CNA course began the second semester of this year and interest among students continues to grow.

“These enthusiastic students have chosen an excellent path as they explore health care while planning for the future, and we’re pleased to cover their tuition and class materials through scholarships,” says Patty Casterton, Aase Haugen Senior Services business development director. “Their genuine interest in the course work shows when they even give up a Friday evening to catch up on skills they’ve missed due to school weather delays and postponements.”

“This type of collaboration in our community speaks volumes about the organizations involved and the instructor,” says Julie Jevne, NICC health success coach. “Working together, we are impacting the lives of young people through quality education and experience that will help them as they launch into their health care careers.”

The seven students recently received gift certificates from Aase Haugen Senior Services Personnel Director, Tiffany Ackerman, to purchase a set of scrubs. “Programming at Aase Haugen rewards our CNAs for stepping up, and signing up, for advanced education,” says Ackerman. “In fact, our CNAs have the opportunity to increase their wages with on-site coursework, scholarships to move to LPN or RN with NICC, shift differentials, and rewards for picking up shifts.” Aase also offers competitive starting wages and flexible scheduling.

Tammy Lauritzen, Aase Haugen director of nursing, presented the students information on what it is like to work in long term care and also encouraged the students to follow their dreams. “I am still a student,” said Lauritzen, who is currently working toward her Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) degree. “I urge these students, and our staff, to keep plugging away at their education until they reach their dream jobs, it may not seem easy, but it’s worth it.”

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**PHOTO and CUTLINE**



Decorah High School/NICC Certified Nursing Assistant students received a visit from Aase Haugen Senior Services Director of Nursing, Tammy Lauritzen, RN, BSN, and Personnel Director, Tiffany Ackerman, during a recent class. “The weather has made the coursework more a of challenge,” says Julie Jevne, Northeast Iowa Community College health success coach. “But these students, and their instructor, Tiffany Lundtvedt, have stepped up and even gave up their personal time on weekends to stay on top of the requirements so they can graduate as CNAs this May.” Pictured front from left are, Kaitlyn Schnitzler, Elise Miller, Kalea Oftedahl, Amanda Kuehner, Kari Tangen, Arielle Gossman, and Emma Rolfs. Back row from left are Tiffany Ackerman, Julie Jevne, and Tammy Lauritzen.

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