Spencerian’s School of Allied Health Sciences offers three new career programs

**Clinical Laboratory Technician program furthers the career pathway for laboratory professionals**

Spencerian College now offers another choice for students who wish to enter the laboratory profession.

“This class is fun and you only take one a year and they have Graduate Employment Services that help you get a job when you graduate.”

**STEPHANIE GOiben**
Clinical Laboratory Assistant Manager, The Eye Care Institute in Louisville.

The College already offers a six month Phlebotomy program for those students who want to begin in the laboratory profession but do not have the desire to work behind the scenes in an actual laboratory.

In response to employment trends in the local healthcare community, Spencerian College is pleased to announce its new Certificate program in Ophthalmic Assisting, approved by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). Spencerian’s new program was designed to prepare students to perform the specialized skills needed for employment in ophthalmology or optometric physician offices. Students will be trained in the various administrative and clinical duties performed by an entry level Ophthalmic Assistant in an eye care medical setting.

**Great, enjoyable career**
People who choose a career in ophthalmic assisting describe many advantages and benefits. They enjoy working in a professional atmosphere with talented and dedicated physicians and technicians. A typical day for an ophthalmic assistant might include taking patient medical histories, instructing patients about their medications, tests, and procedures, performing various vision and diagnostic tests, assisting ophthalmologists with patient procedures, and coordinating patient scheduling.

**New partnership formed**
“There is a lack of trained, qualified Ophthalmic Assistants in the Metro Louisville healthcare field. The demand for these positions will continue to grow due to aging of our current population and the growing number of diabetes needing eye care. We feel the Louisville ophthalmic community as a whole will benefit by having access to trained professionals. We are extremely excited to be able to partner with Spencerian College regarding the Ophthalmic Assistant Certificate program,” stated Mark Prussian, MBA, FACHE, COE, Administrator for The Eye Care Institute in Louisville.

The partnership between Spencerian College and The Eye Care Institute will provide a great opportunity for ophthalmic assistants to go on site at the facility to complete a portion of the clinical training of the program as well as the externship. This “real world” hands-on training environment will be an excellent opportunity for students to master their skills and make the transition from the classroom to employment.

New classes start every January, March, June and September and will fill quickly. To learn more about the Ophthalmic Assistant Certificate program, visit spencerian.edu or call 502-447-1000.

**Spencerian’s great Accreditation News**
Earlier this year, Spencerian College hosted the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools for an extensive four day re-accreditation visit of the College. Spencerian’s faculty and staff worked extremely hard in preparation for the accreditation visit and this hard work paid off.

The accreditation team found Spencerian College, Louisville to be 100% in compliance with the accreditation standards. The team reported no deficiencies of the standards.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment for a college,” stated Jan Gordon, Spencerian’s Executive Director, adding, “National statistics report that only 3% of schools going through an accreditation visit meet 100% compliance during their initial site visit. More and more phlebotomists and clinical laboratory assistants to help relieve the strain on Medical Technologists and Medical Laboratory Technicians. Clinical Laboratory Assistants will play a vital role in the work flow of the laboratory. CLAs will collect specimens, do speci men processing, perform limited waived laboratory testing, assist technicians and technologists with maintenance and reagent preparation, prepare blood donor products, perform blood donor collection, and perform preparation of specimens for testing from alternative laboratory sources.

CLAs are employed in hospitals, research laboratories, reference laboratories, community blood centers, and some large physician offices. Great opportunity to further education Clinical Laboratory Assistants are often given the opportunity by their employing facility to further their education. Some employers provide tuition reimbursement to employees after a period of continuous employ ment. With additional education, CLAs can continue on to become Medical Laboratory Technicians, Medical Technologists, Healthcare Administrators, or even physicians.

Spencerian College is dedicated to providing educational opportunities for students in many types of business and allied health careers. The Clinical Laboratory Assistant Diploma is just one more program designed with the future allied health student and their career pathway in mind.

**Announcing new Surgical Technology Associate Degree**
Here’s some good news for those current and prospective students who want to further their education in the Surgical Technology field. Spencerian College now offers an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Surgical Technology. Since 2001, Spencerian has offered a diploma in Surgical Technology; however, many graduates have requested the opportunity to build on their diploma training. The community has positively responded to our surveys, and national and programmatic accreditation has been received.

The new program offers general education courses, more in-depth training in surgical technology, and more preparation for national certification, a potential Kentucky state requirement for surgical technologists. The AAS Surgical Technology program is open to new students and to students who have graduated from the Surgical Technology diploma program.

Beginning in January 2009, this will be the only Surgical Technology program at Spencerian. Although currently offered in the day division only, some selected classes may be available in the evening and online. The limited spots available in this program are expected to fill quickly.