

Middle schoolers put nursing careers under a microscope



Rick Dandes/The Daily Item

Amy Gaines, R.N., far left, a teacher at the Central Susquehanna LPN Career Center, shows Selinsgrove Middle School students Regan Kerstetter, left, Melania Strawser, McCartney Roman, and Regan Yoder how to use an Anatomage.

Selinsgrove Area students tour LPN career center



Rick Dandes/The Daily Item

Central Susquehanna LPN Career Center Director Ashlee Bower on Monday explained to 21 Selinsgrove Middle School students the difference between an LPN and an RN.

By Rick Dandes
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MONTANDON — Careers as licensed nurses can provide well-paid, sustainable jobs in the Valley's growing health care field, said Ashlee Bowers, director of the Central Susquehanna LPN Career Center, to 21 Selinsgrove Middle School students during their Monday morning field trip.

Bowers and fellow instructor Amy Gaines, an R.N., led students through some introductory lessons in anatomy. "This is a rewarding career," Bowers said. "And it is an honor to teach the next generation of nurses."

CLASS ACTS

"The students who are here have expressed interest in health care as a possible occupation after they graduate," said Rebecca Schaffer-Neitz, 6-12 Selinsgrove career counselor.

"We bring those students with an interest in healthcare to this LPN Center to see if the idea of nursing is something up their alley," added Bryan Mohr, a teacher at Selinsgrove Middle School. "These students were part of our 'smart futures' program."

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Bowers said this was the second or third time a group from Selinsgrove Middle School had come to the LPN Center on a career fact-finding trip. “But we’re available to do this with other school districts that have students interested in a health care career.”

Arriving promptly at 9 a.m., they were greeted by Bowers, who explained to the students

some basic differences between an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) and an R.N. (Registered Nurse).

Gaines said the center’s year-long LPN program is rigorous, and prepares students for work in a variety of health care settings and includes classroom instruction, lab experiences, and clinical rotations.

“As graduates of the program,” she added, “certified LPNs can

expect salaries in the \$50,000 range.”

During the 90 minute visit, students toured the facility and in groups of four, used the Anatomic Table to explore human anatomy and physiology through interactive learning and quizzing.

Students participated in simulation activities using medical manikins to practice assessment skills, such as listening to heart and lung sounds.