

Dental students score perfect

Two years of rigorous classroom instruction, weekly labs and many hours of clinical instruction paid off in a big way for recent graduates of the Colby Community College dental hygiene program.

Program director Becky Vollertsen recently learned that 100 percent of the students passed the national written examination. In addition, 98 percent of the students passed the practical exam.

"One student was not able to complete the Central Regional Dental Testing Service portion of the exam because her patient did not meet the criteria," said Vollertsen. "The patient did not exhibit enough dental problems so the student will retake that portion of the exam in Kansas City."

The test covers the states of Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wyoming.

For the students must scale, take vital signs and mount x-rays in three and a half hours before getting



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Sherri Martin, instructor, demonstrated techniques to one of the dental hygiene students during clinics held on the Colby Commu-

nity College campus. This year's students were also recognized for passing the national written examination.

checked by an examiner. Once students have graduated, they receive their scores in July, and they can start working in August in the state of their choice.

The nationally-accredited Colby College program is unique in its method of delivery. The classroom component of the work is delivered via state-of-the-art interactive tele-

vision equipment from North-central Technical College located in Wausau, Wisconsin. Lectures are reinforced with labs and clinics on the Colby campus.

"Because of accreditation restrictions, our program is limited to 12 first-year and 12 second-year students," said Vollertsen. "Nine students completed the program this

year and passed the national exam. We have 12 incoming freshman for next year and 12 sophomores are enrolled in the program."

The program from Wausau also delivers the classroom portion to the dental hygiene program located at Fort Scott Community College.

The national examination pass rate for the three programs (Wau-

sau, Colby and Fort Scott) was 94 percent.

"We offer a quality program that also provides a great service to patients in the surrounding counties," said Vollertsen. "Our graduates are in demand."

"They are employed in many communities across Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado."

College offers study tour

Colby Community College is offering a tour to Salt Lake City and Moab, Utah Tuesday through Saturday, July 31-Aug.4.

Longtime Colby College instructor Roger Hale will be the tour director for the study expedition leaving July 31 from the college campus. Trip participants can earn college credit by enrolling in "The American Frontier" (one hour) and "Genealogy and Family History" (three hours).

The trip features visits to historic Temple Square, the Mormon Temple, Brigham Young's home, the Catholic Cathedral of the Madeleine, Utah's State Capitol Building and more, said Debbie Schwanke, public information officer.

"The American Frontier" will be taught by Colby College instructor Tom Moorhouse.

"He will provide instruction on the early mountain men, trailblazers and Utah pioneers," she said.

Cost for the study expedition is \$600. Participants must also enroll in at least one course. Tuition and fees for in-state students is \$78 per credit hour. There is no tuition fee for Thomas County senior citizens.

Deadline to register for the tour is Tuesday, July 10.

For information, call Hale at (785) 460-2838.

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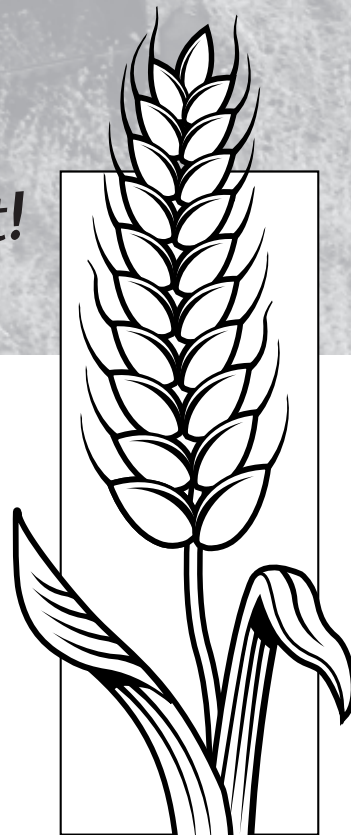
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