

New LPN Career Center director on duty

Nursing shortage cited

BY MATT FARRAND
Staff writer

LEWISBURG — Dr. Timothy Campbell recently began as the new director of the Central Susquehanna LPN Career Center.

In his first month on the job, Campbell said he's found the faculty to be among the training center's finest features. His observations concurred with the thoughts of many students, graduates and staff members.

"Three-quarters of the students I talked to said the best thing about this place is the faculty," he noted. "When I heard that I knew my job was going to be a lot easier."

Campbell said the faculty's care, compassion and advocacy for students were evident from the start, as was the positive energy evident during the transition.

"The support I've received and hopefully will continue to do so has just been amazing," he added. "It has been a really positive experience."

Dr. John Kurelja, CSIU chief academic officer, similarly added that the transition has been positive. The center is already one of the tops in the state.

Kurelja noted students may enroll in full or part-time programs, which is handy for men and women who need to work at other jobs.

"It allows students to work (or) have another job while they are going to school," he said. "Many of them are trying to provide for a family as they go to school. It is extremely difficult."

Kurelja, like Campbell, cited the talent of the LPN Career Center faculty.

"They have had tremendous



Photo provided
Dr. Timothy Campbell recently began as director of the Central Susquehanna LPN Career Center.

success, in terms of graduation rates...and finding jobs," he added. "Almost 100 percent placement (and) 100 percent pass rates on the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) test they take."

Both men cited the need for nurses in the community. Salaries start in about the \$40,000 range for a nurse.

Initiatives included WATCH (Work Attributes Toward Careers in Health) grants, which provides an affordable path for students to earn family sustaining money. Kurelja said about 85 percent of LPN Center graduates remain in the area.

Campbell said hospitals and nursing homes often offer resources for continuing education and professional development.

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Staff Writer Matt Farrand can be reached at 570-742-9671 and via email at matt@standard-journal.com.