

## NEW TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CNAS AT ARCHBOLD

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Reports from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing suggest our current national nursing shortage is greater than the country has experienced since the 1960s.

And while studies show an increasing demand for Registered Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants statewide, local healthcare experts say it's especially difficult to recruit and retain the qualified critical nursing workforce needed to meet the demand in rural South Georgia communities.

Archbold Memorial Hospital has taken an innovative approach to specifically combat the shortage of qualified Certified Nursing Assistants, particularly in the health system's long-term care facilities located in Camilla, Pelham and Thomasville.

Archbold teamed up with WorkSource Southwest Georgia—the Workforce Division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development located in Southwest Georgia—to implement a unique on-site training program that will help meet the needs of individuals interested in a career as a CNA.

"We often have applicants interested in becoming CNAs, but they don't always have the money to attend a formal training program. And since the programs can last up to two semesters, it's difficult for students to work and earn income needed, while attending school at the same time," said Julianne Coleman, human resources coordinator for Archbold's system hospitals and long-term care facilities.

Though there are many other CNA training programs available locally, the existing programs simply aren't enough to keep up with the increasing demand for training a much needed qualified CNA workforce in the South Georgia region.

"That's why we decided to look at creating our own program, one that would provide great hands-on training and financial compensation for students while they're earning course credit that meets the needs of the State of Georgia's existing requirements for Certified Nursing Assistants," Coleman said.

Archbold's new program will be partially funded by a federal grant from WorkSource Southwest Georgia. Students selected for the nine-week training program will be hired as Archbold employees while earning CNA credit hours. Students will earn an hourly wage while completing 140 hours of course work and clinical hours. All CNA requirements outlined by the State of Georgia will be followed to ensure students are well-trained and prepared to care for patients.

"The nine week program will be held at Archbold Memorial Hospital," said Coleman. "Students will complete clinical rotation hours at the three Archbold nursing homes—Glenn-Mor Nursing Home in Thomasville, Pelham Parkway Nursing Home in Pelham and Mitchell Convalescent Center in Camilla."

The inaugural Archbold CNA training program will consist of 14 students. Archbold and WorkSource Southwest Georgia will screen all applicants following standard employment practices, including a face-to-face interview with program staff and the Archbold Human Resources department. The program start date will be March 13, 2017, and the deadline to apply for the program is February 15.

"The WorkSource Southwest Georgia system is excited to leverage our work-based resources with Archbold to address its talent needs," said Charles Williams, executive director of Southwest Georgia WorkSource's Development Board.

For more information or to apply for the Archbold CNA training program, click here. (<http://archbold.org/cna>)



# CNA TRAINING PROGRAM

## NOW RECRUITING

- Eleven weeks paid training to become a Certified Nursing Assistant
- Onsite job training at Archbold long-term care facilities
- State of Georgia curriculum (92 classroom hours and 32 clinical hours)
- Limited spots available

For more information, please call  
Julianne Coleman at 229.227.5043



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