



NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact:
Maurey Williamson
Communications and Public Affairs Coordinator
(217) 819-4090
mwilliamson@ccrpc.org

RPC Partners with Carle to Recruit Candidates for Unique Jobs Program

Eight-week paid program combines classroom work and on-the-job training to help participants develop full-time employment with Carle

URBANA, IL (February 5, 2018) The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is collaborating with The Carle Foundation to support a new **Job Readiness and Learning Program**. Carle interviewed a number of candidates for the eight-week paid program on January 30, 2018, during a healthcare recruitment event at the Illinois workNet Center in Champaign. The Center is home to the RPC’s federally funded Workforce Development program. Carle’s Job Readiness and Learning Program, which begins on March 5, 2018, aims to accept 10 initial participants. The program is the first of a number of planned healthcare-related academies that will be supported through this public-private partnership.

“We are delighted with this new partnership and the opportunities it presents for advancing innovative workforce training and development in our community,” comments **Elizabeth Murphy**, the RPC’s Chief Operating Officer. “Given the projected demand for healthcare in the next decade, there will continue to be an increasing number of entry- and mid-level jobs available, thus presenting opportunities and pathways for non-traditional, low-income individuals and disadvantaged populations.”

Murphy says employment of healthcare occupations is projected to grow nearly 20% from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. “While many of the new jobs created since the Great Recession are low-paying retail and restaurant positions with no benefits and little chance of advancement, the growing healthcare sector offers career paths that lead to generous compensation and a secure future,” she explains. She also points out that in the latest 10-year projections for industry growth from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, dating from 2014 to 2024, the health care and social assistance industry is forecasted to produce one in three of the net new jobs in the United States.



Members of the RPC’s Workforce Development program welcome candidates to the learning event on January 30 in Champaign.

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Healthcare programs like Carle's Job Readiness and Learning Program aim to provide eligible participants with job-driven training, tools, and access to career pathways that lead to permanent, sustainable employment and ongoing career advancement. Public workforce development funding from the RPC will leverage private Carle Foundation funding in an effort to expand workforce training and support services with a focus on in-demand entry- and mid-level healthcare positions in our community.

"With Carle being one of our largest employers, it is amazing to see how this unique training program will provide stable employment opportunities for so many of our clients," says **Toriana Rhone**, the RPC's Workforce Development Manager. The 10 candidates chosen will benefit from paid employment with benefits, a positive team environment with supportive managers, and a support system for both personal and work goals.

"Our goal for this special Job Readiness and Learning Program is to create a pathway toward successful employment at Carle," says **Lauren Schmid**, Carle's vice president of Human Resources. "For individuals interested in working at Carle, this is a great opportunity to blend their interest in working at Carle with building valuable work skills. In partnership with the RPC's Workforce Development program, we are able to support individuals not only through the people at recruitment events and beyond, but into employment, as well, for those chosen for Carle's Job Readiness and Learning Program." Schmid adds that the health system, which includes Health Alliance Medical Plans, recently earned national Great Place to Work in Healthcare for 2018 honors.

During their third week in the program, participants will begin on-the-job-training in their assigned department, which includes meeting other team members while learning the job and the leader's expectations. Upon completion of the eight-week program in May, participants will be placed full-time in the positions for which they were hired (Environmental Services, Food Services, or Sterile Processing Distribution). After six months of successful employment, participants/employees become eligible for participation in other classes and growth opportunities at Carle. Check-ins between the coach, managers, and participants continue through a participant's first year of employment. These check-ins will focus on the progress being made toward career and personal goals, while connecting with other related resources along the way.

The program's classroom work features a variety of activities that can be applied quickly and carried through to on-the-job-training and future work. Sample activities include brainstorming, conversations, demonstrations, videos, journal writing, games, problem solving, role-playing, and simulations. Among the topics covered are Connecting Through Communication, Customer Service, Career and Personal Goal Planning, Time Management and Organizational Skills, Teamwork, Work-Life Balance, and Clinic and Hospital Setting Operations.

Candidates selected by Carle for the Job Readiness and Learning Program are encouraged to also participate in the RPC's federally funded workforce development services. If eligible, they will have access to supplemental supportive services to assist them in addressing barriers that may affect their employment, such as childcare and transportation needs.

"The RPC's Workforce Development program is a wonderful opportunity for both individuals and businesses. We strive to prepare eligible youth, adults, and dislocated workers for entry/re-entry into the labor force," Rhone says.

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“The main components include job search assistance, career readiness, and paid occupational training in high-growth fields that will cover tuition, books, supplies, and other supportive services. We also provide services to employers that includes On-the-Job Training reimbursements, Incumbent Worker and Apprenticeship training funds, and assistance with recruitment. The best part is that all of these services are free to the individual and employer.”

The RPC and Carle plan to co-host a number of additional recruitment events in the spring and fall of 2018 for selection into a number of Carle learning academies.

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About Carle

Based in Urbana, IL, The Carle Foundation is a vertically integrated health system with more than 7,000 employees in its hospitals, physician group, and health plan. The 413-bed Carle Foundation Hospital is a Level I Trauma Center and offers Level III perinatal services. Carle was ranked in 2017 as one of America's 50 Best Hospitals by HealthGrades, a Best Hospital by *U.S. News and World Report*, and has achieved Magnet® designation, the nation's highest honor for nursing care. The system includes the 24-bed critical access Carle Hoopeson Regional Health Center, the 134-bed Carle Richland Memorial Hospital, and Carle Physician Group with 450 doctors. Health Alliance is a leading provider-driven health plan serving Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, and Washington. In 2017, Health Alliance was awarded by J.D. Power for highest member satisfaction among commercial health plans in the Illinois and Indiana Region. Carle serves people through high-quality care, medical research and education.

About Workforce Development

The RPC administers the federal workforce development program in East Central Illinois. The local workforce area includes Champaign, Ford, Piatt, and Iroquois Counties. The federal workforce program is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. The Workforce Development program is based at the Illinois workNet Center, located at 1307 N. Mattis Avenue in Champaign, IL. It can be reached by phone at 217-531-8282.

About the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

Based in Urbana, IL, the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission is an intergovernmental membership organization that provides a variety of programming in the areas of regional, environmental and transportation planning; economic, community, and workforce development; social services; early childhood education; and technical assistance in East Central Illinois. As a multi-faceted government agency, the Commission administers over 100 federal and state grants and contracts with an annual operating budget of \$25 million and a staff of over 235 professionals housed in 12 locations serving over 30,000 clients annually. For more information, please visit www.ccrpc.org.