

Hi-Line Healthcare Facilities, Department of Labor & Industry Growing Workforce through Apprenticeships

New training opportunities investing in rural communities to strengthen local economies

As Montana continues facing a workforce shortage across all industry sectors, healthcare facilities have collaborated with the Montana Department of Labor & Industry to train tomorrow's rural, community-based nurses and technicians through the time-honored model of apprenticeship.

Liberty Medical Center, HealthCARE Montana and the agency have been working over the last year to launch new programs in northcentral Montana communities, including Chester, Harlem and Rocky Boy. Specific programs initiated including:

- Liberty Medical Center has committed to apprenticeships for Medication Aide II, Restorative Aides, and Medical Assistants.
- Aaniih Nakoda College, has committed to apprenticeships for training Certified Nurse Aides.
- Rocky Boy Health Clinic, in conjunction with Stone Child College, has committed to apprenticeship for their Medical Coders.

“Northcentral Montana’s rural communities constantly need their healthcare facilities to be fully staffed with highly trained professionals,” said Labor & Industry Commissioner Pam Bucy. **“The private-public partnerships built through the Montana Registered Apprenticeship program are making it possible for Montanans on the Hi-Line to be seen cared for by people who have spent their lives caring about their communities. Over the last two years, over 100 healthcare apprenticeships with more than 30 employers have been launched across Montana.”**

April Malan, Clinic Director for Liberty Medical Center Clinic, sees the growth of these healthcare apprenticeships as the future of developing talent pipelines in the region.

“These innovative training models are changing the way clinics are growing their workforces in our communities,” said Malan. **“By knowing who we’re training and what skills they learning, we’re able to make sure patients are receiving the care they expect from highly trained professionals.”**

According to Terri Perrigo, Workforce Coordinator with HealthCARE Montana, it doesn't matter the size of a healthcare facility-apprenticeship collaborations work.

“Whether we’re talking about the region’s largest hospital in Great Falls or the clinic in Chester, our healthcare facilities need to grow their talent pipelines to provide service to Montanans,” said Perrigo. **“By working with the Montana Registered Apprenticeship and the Department of Labor & Industry, we are making sure people will have the most updated training for their communities’ wellness.”**

To learn more about these and other exciting healthcare apprenticeship opportunities available statewide or any of the almost sixty occupations served through the Montana Registered Apprenticeship unit please call the Montana Department of Labor & Industry at (406) 444-4100 or visit Apprenticeship.mt.gov.

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