

Better Together

Report
to the
Community
2013



Elgin
Community
College

Bright Choice. Bright Future.

For healthcare practitioners, maintaining certifications through continuing education is essential, but finding high-quality training close to home can be a challenge.

"Much of what is available is outside our district," says Jenny Bloomer, a physical therapy assistant who works at Clare Oaks in Bartlett. "It can also be expensive and impersonal, lectures to large auditoriums from vendors who know nothing about our community's needs."

That's why Bloomer, a 2001 graduate of ECC's PTA program, signed up when the school announced its first continuing

education workshops for healthcare practitioners. "I turned to a trusted resource," she says. "And the workshop was led by experts who were also, in a sense, neighbors, currently practicing, hands on."

Bob Tripicchio, PT, DSc, was one of Bloomer's teachers, introducing her to the Ozer Nelson Payton (OPN) Method.

"Traditional rehab is paternalistic," explains Tripicchio, president of Community Physical Therapy and Associates in Addison. "The OPN process uses a cycle of questions to encourage people in rehab to set their own goals."

Bloomer's work at Clare Oaks was transformed. "There was one woman who would, with a traditional plan, be working on walking 150 feet and lifting 10 pounds. Not very inspiring. I discovered what she really wanted: to be able to load her washing machine. That made her independent. That was a real motivation."

To date, ECC has launched continuing education for radiography and massage therapy professionals. Other fields will follow, according to Wendy Miller, dean of health professions.

"It is exciting to see ECC try something new," says Bloomer. "ECC is dedicated to the needs of its alumni, even after they graduate, giving us more tools to be successful, and improving the healthcare we provide."

Continuing education for local healthcare practitioners

