

March 2021

Healthcare Workforce Update

ADDRESSING THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE NEEDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, LABOR & REGULATION, HEALTH AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS



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Healthcare Workforce Collaborative

Greetings from the South Dakota Office of Rural Health. This office along with our many partners continues to work at addressing South Dakota's healthcare workforce needs. Read on to see what's noteworthy over the past few months as well as what's coming in the future! As always, we welcome your feedback regarding these and other workforce development issues.

Project ECHO: University of South Dakota Recovery Support ECHO

Addiction counseling, mental health, and social work professionals

Please join us for an integrated look at recovery support in South Dakota

Join us for Project ECHO sessions weekly on
Wednesdays 12:00-1:00pm CT March 17 to April 28.

Register via the link

<https://usd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJltduihqzwuGNzF2LQQd5Sgtnk2AzDB3Y4I>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing
information about joining the sessions.

Register once and you can attend any of the sessions.
Join each session via Zoom from your internet-enabled device.

Continuing education credits are available through the
South Dakota Board of Addiction and Prevention Professionals
and the South Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners.

For more information visit <https://www.usd.edu/echo> or email ProjectECHO@usd.edu

SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic
3-17	Resources in South Dakota
3-24	Culturally Responsive Support
3-31	Peer Coaching
4-7	Self-Help
4-14	SD National Guard Substance Abuse Program
4-21	Peer Recovery Support Specialists
4-28	Successes and Challenges of Recovery Services



We encourage you to invite others who may benefit.

CRNAs Added to Recruitment Assistance Program

Contributed by Office of Rural Health

House Bill 1195 was signed by Governor Noem which added Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists to the Recruitment Assistance Program effective July 1, 2021.

This program provides qualifying physicians, dentists, physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives or certified registered nurse anesthetists an incentive payment in return for three continuous years of practice in an eligible rural community. Eligible South Dakota facilities must be in a community with a population of 10,000 or less. Requests for participation in this recruitment program are reviewed on a first-come first-served basis. A community or facility representative should contact the Office of Rural Health to request an assessment to determine eligibility.

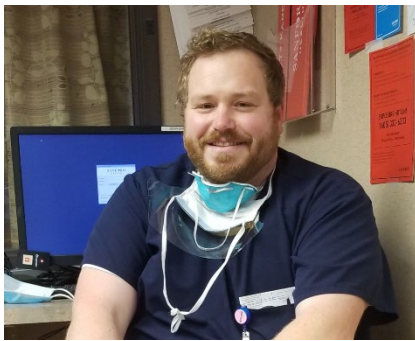
The amount of the incentive payment is subject to change July 1 of each year. A physician or dentist who fulfills the requirements of the recruitment assistance program will receive an incentive payment in an amount equal to twice the University of South Dakota School of Medicine resident tuition for the four most recently completed academic years. A physician assistant, certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife or certified registered nurse anesthetist who fulfills the requirements of the recruitment assistance program will receive an incentive payment in an amount equal to twice the University of South Dakota resident tuition for physician assistant studies for the three most recently completed academic years.

For additional information about the Recruitment Assistance Program, contact DeAnn Sprenger, Office of Rural Health by calling (605) 773-2706 or send an email to deann.sprenger@state.sd.us.



Traveling COVID-19 Nurse Found a Home Back Home

Contributed by South Dakota State University, written by Dave Graves



Tyler Christensen is proof you can go home again. The staff at Sanford Health is thankful he did.

Christensen, an '07 graduate, had been working as a traveling nurse in Reno, Nevada, before the Beresford native decided to return to his home state to serve COVID-19 patients at Sanford in Sioux Falls. He continues to work as a traveling nurse but hopes to become a permanent employee. "I will stay here until I die. South Dakota has a friendliness that is hard to match anywhere else," he said.

Christensen arrived at Sanford Nov. 9. His original term was to expire Feb. 6. However, an extension was granted through May 1.

"It's an extremely rewarding job. But it's been a tough year for a lot of nurses. I've never lost so many patients in a year. I'm 14 years in now and I still really enjoy what I do as a bedside nurse. It's an extremely rewarding job. I really love that," said Christensen, who has worked in intensive care units almost all of those 14 years.

The stress of that work has him considering another line of nursing, but he hasn't given a second thought to leaving South Dakota again.

"This Sanford job has been my favorite (out of years of traveling assignments). The work ethic—these are South Dakota kids that just work their tails off. And I've been treated very, very well. Sanford had never used travelers (before COVID-19) and I was in the first group of travelers that came into Sanford. They did a phenomenal job. The staff and administrators have been so accommodating and warm and welcoming.

"I enjoyed my jobs around America, but there's no place like home. I love it, hence why I am going to stay," Christensen said.

This is the first time Christensen has practiced in South Dakota since completing his clinicals. After graduation, he took a position with the heart and lung transplant center at the University of Colorado Hospital in Denver. After six years there, he became frustrated with the high cost of living and opted to become a traveling nurse.

"It's not for everybody, but it's a good income," said Christensen, who is using the extra money to pay student loans.

He has seen a fair amount of the United States, particularly the West. He liked Redding, California, so well that he spent a year there as a permanent nurse. Then it was back to traveling. He was working as a traveling nurse in Redding when the pandemic broke. But the caseload was slow in the spring and nurses were being furloughed because other procedures were scaled back in anticipation of a coronavirus outbreak.

Coronavirus numbers were spiking in Redding when his next assignment took him to Reno. As his term was wrapping up there, South Dakota was experiencing a spike.

He said he had been looking for a South Dakota assignment for some time, but until the COVID-19 outbreak there were not openings for traveling nurses. "Nationally as a traveling nurse, it was name your price and place. Every hospital wanted a traveler," he said.

However, Christensen is happy to be in Sioux Falls, closer to where his ailing mother lives and nearer to nieces and nephews.

Christensen said he is happy with the teamwork and community support he has seen in Sioux Falls. "Everybody works together here. I really like Sanford. We do team nursing. Sometimes we're paired with a nurse that is not ICU trained, so she can't work a ventilator, but she can do other things, like grab things from the clean environment so I don't have to change out of my PPE."





Sanford Health Offers High School Students a Deep Dive into Radiology Technology Careers

Contributed by Sanford Health

Due to the extensive variety and exciting opportunities in radiologic technology careers, Sanford Health's MedX Virtual program is offering three Zoom "deep dive" sessions throughout the month of April.

Various radiologic technology career professionals will share their career journeys, passion for their work, and their specific training and expertise with students on the call. This FREE virtual program is based out of Sanford Bismarck and is open to all students in grades 9-12 throughout South Dakota and across the Midwest.

Interested participants are invited to register at <https://sanfordhealthfound.smapply.io/>. Students will first create a SurveyMonkeyApply account by clicking the green "Register" button in the upper right hand corner and can then look for "Aspire/MedX" to complete the registration.

The three radiologic technology deep dive sessions complement our full MedX Virtual program. We are mid-way through the Spring 2021 session, and we are still welcoming interested high school students to join. The weekly Zoom calls with multiple healthcare professionals give students a front-row seat to explore careers and talk directly with care providers, all from the comfort of their own home.

We have a great line up still in store through May and look forward to the opportunity to serve more students and families with this amazing program. Interested students and school personnel can register here: [https://sanfordhealthfound.smapply.io/prog/aspire - medx virtual/](https://sanfordhealthfound.smapply.io/prog/aspire-medx-virtual/)

For more information regarding either program, please email Linae.Enockson@sanfordhealth.org or call (701) 321-0358.



MEDX

Rad Tech Careers

Thursdays, April 8, 15 and 22, 7-8 p.m. CST

Free program offered via Zoom!

Join the MedX Virtual program for three nights of exploring the wide variety of radiologic technology careers! Each session will cover 2-3 "modalities," or types of work available to radiologic technologists. Education and training for these careers will also be explored!

April 8, 7-8 pm CST Radiology Modality Overview, Diagnostic X-Ray Careers, Mammography Careers and Sanford Radiology Program

April 15, 7-8 pm CST Interventional Radiology Careers, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Careers, Computed Tomography (CT) Careers

April 22, 7-8 pm CST Ultrasound/Echocardiography Careers, Nuclear Medicine Careers, Bismarck State College Sonography Program

<https://sanfordhealthfound.smapply.io/> to register.
For more info, email linae.enockson@sanfordhealth.org,
or call 701-321-0358.



Scrubs Camp and Camp Med

Contributed by Office of Rural Health

The Office of Rural Health (ORH) created an additional innovative way for middle school and high school students to be reached for Scrubs Camp and Camp Med for the 2020-2021 school year. ORH partnered with the SD Discovery Center to create a virtual platform of multiple careers ranging from 2-year technical school degrees to 4 year and beyond healthcare careers for medical professionals in South Dakota. This is an effective way to be able to promote learning despite pandemic restrictions. The following medical careers are included in the platform. Each medical professional recorded a video and is a great tool that teachers and students can access as their schedules allow. When looking ahead we foresee camps returning to in-person, hands-on learning and interaction. ORH may also offer virtual camps in future school years. Camp coordinators hold camps across South Dakota. Please visit the website for more information and to see how your community is engaged or to get signed up! <http://scrubscamps.sd.gov/>

2020/2021 highlighted South Dakota Medical Careers at Scrubs Camp and Camp Med:

- Surgical Technologist
- Dental Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Phlebotomy Lab Assistant
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Registered Nurse
- Athletic Trainer
- Clinical Psychologist
- Medical Social Worker
- Neurologist
- Biomedical Engineer
- Bio-Ethics/Genetic Counselor
- Health Information Management
- Ultrasound Technician



For additional information or questions please contact State DOH Rural Health Specialist Natalie Nagle at 605-773-6320 or Natalie.Nagle@state.sd.us.



New Nurse Begins Career on the Front Lines of COVID-19

Contributed by Avera Health

Brianna Erickson wanted to be an ICU nurse for the challenge, but she never imagined her first challenge would be caring for the sickest patients in a pandemic.

"I wanted to be able to use my critical thinking skills, which I see as one of my strengths," said Erickson, a registered nurse at [Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center](#). "I know this experience will help me be the best nurse I can be."



A December 2019 graduate of South Dakota State University, Erickson already had a job at Avera McKennan lined up and was excited to get started. She began work in February, just as Avera teams were beginning to train and prepare for the coming COVID-19 crisis.

As the weeks unfolded, things began to change very quickly. A beginning ICU nurse goes through 16 weeks of orientation. "I have amazing mentors who have definitely helped me through all this so far," Erickson said.

She's now at the point where she can care for patients on her own, with mentors there to offer support and answer questions.

Erickson has cared for a mix of COVID and non-COVID patients. Avera has two separated units for COVID and non-COVID care. "Because we can't allow visitors, we as nurses not only play a caregiver role but also the role of family for many of these patients," she said. "Every day, our mission at Avera truly aligns with the nurse I want to be."

Fear of getting the virus doesn't plague Erickson, but she does have a healthy respect for it. "Once I got in the ICU and saw how sick COVID patients can get, it became a little worrisome to me. But I have a great supervisor who has prepared us well and made us feel safe with all the protective equipment that we wear. That's very reassuring."

Nurses and caregivers are viewed as heroes on the front lines of the war against COVID-19. "I never thought that I would be doing this as a nurse. I feel we have the support of the community. It feels good that people appreciate the work we are doing," Erickson said.

The value of teamwork will be something that Erickson takes with her from this experience. "As a team, our unit has done a great job of adjusting to all the constant change. Together we are strong, ready, and well-prepared for anything that comes our way."

Do you care for
someone with
memory
loss?



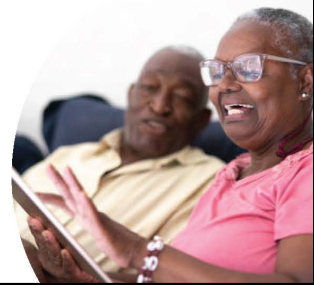
If you live in rural community
and care for a person with
memory loss...

A free 6-week online
workshop may help you!

Check if you are eligible at:
caregiverproject.ucsf.edu

Join a research study of the University
of California, San Francisco

**Rural Dementia
Caregiver Project**



DOH Social Media

What's happening at the South Dakota Department of Health and the Office of Rural Health?

Keep informed at these social media accounts.

DOH on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SDHealthDepartment>

DOH on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/SDDOH>

SD Health Careers on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/SDHealthCareers>

HOTT on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SDHealthCareers?ref=hl>

SIM-SD on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Simulation-in-Motion-South-Dakota-131973850231573/timeline/>

More Information?

Contact [Josie Petersen](#), Department of Health

If you would like to be removed from this distribution list, please contact [Josie Petersen](#).

