

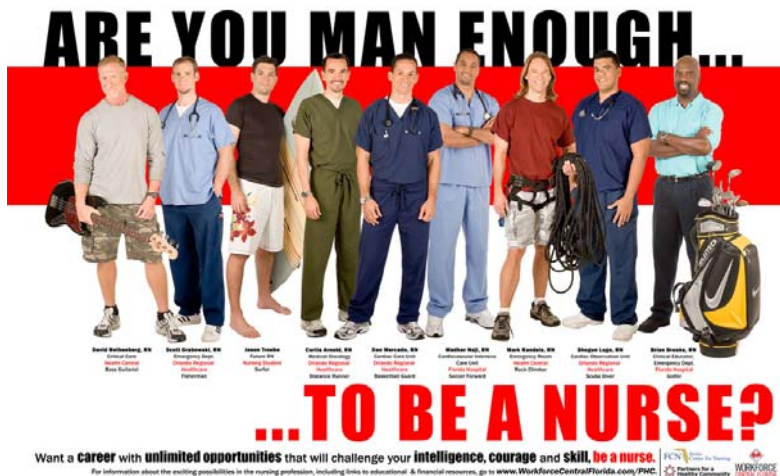


WORKFORCE CENTRAL FLORIDA

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NATIONAL NURSES WEEK IS MAY 6 – 12 ... ARE YOU MAN ENOUGH TO BE A NURSE?



ORLANDO, Fla. ... You may be surprised to learn that men represent only six percent of the nursing population in the United States. This is in sharp contrast to the large percentage of men that were nurses in the early 1900s.

In a study by Partners for a Healthy Community (PHC), a partnership supported by WORKFORCE CENTRAL FLORIDA (WCF), researchers confirmed that there is a need to address the healthcare industry labor supply in Central Florida and that healthcare vacancies, unmet need, and turnovers may increase in the coming years, if action is not taken to increase workforce supply more quickly.

The study, a survey that was responded to by 12 healthcare facilities in Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Lake and Sumter counties, found that the majority of healthcare vacancies, a total of 915, fell in nursing with 739 vacancies. Registered nurses (RNs) in direct care positions came in first with a deficit of 600 workers, and among allied health occupations, the largest numbers of vacancies were reported for respiratory therapists, medical lab technologists and physical therapists.

Nearly 90 percent of the respondents reported that their need for direct care RNs exceeded current staffing and more than 40 percent of respondents reported unmet need for advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs), pharmacists, and respiratory therapists. In addition, more than 60 percent of facilities expect that demand for adult critical care RNs will increase over the next two years.

To address the nursing shortage, Partners for a Healthy Community (PHC), a partnership supported by WORKFORCE CENTRAL FLORIDA (WCF), has launched its “Are you Man Enough to be a Nurse” campaign targeting young men in school, along with men looking to make a career change in Central Florida, to encourage them to choose a career as a nurse.

So, are you man enough to be a nurse? If you’re looking for a career with unlimited opportunity that requires intelligence, courage, and teamwork, then nursing may be the right choice for you.

Nursing is a flexible job allowing you to work where and when you want, full-time or part-time. Or if you wish to take time off to go to school or raise your family, it is easy to find work when you are ready to return to the field. As a nurse, the working locations are also flexible, ranging from the emergency room and operating room to a ski resort or cruise ship.

Most nurses change specialties several times throughout their careers without ever leaving the profession, because nurses can move laterally to another field or up the ladder. Some examples of types of nurses include cardiac care, community health, critical care, pediatric, orthopedic and oncology.

Although roles vary, there are two types of nurses that are popular for someone entering the field, a licensed practical nurse (LPN) and a registered nurse (RN). An LPN works under the supervision of a licensed professional, such as an RN or a physician, and provides basic hands-on care that helps to improve the health of generally stable patients. Many LPNs work in nursing homes or the long-term care environment.

An RN has a greater level of responsibility, develops plans of care that they and others follow, and provides hands-on care, typically for patients whose conditions are not stable or whose needs are more complex than those who are cared for by an LPN. RNs most commonly work in hospitals or medical offices and are more likely to receive higher level nursing positions because of their additional education.

Becoming an LPN requires approximately one year of study from a vocational school or a community college. Because of the shorter term of schooling, some nurses begin working as an LPN and then complete a bridge program to become an RN.

To be an RN requires two to four years of schooling to earn either an associate's degree in nursing (ADN) or a bachelor's of science in nursing (BSN). An ADN is offered at junior and community colleges and trains and prepares nurses to provide direct patient care in numerous settings. Although not required, some nurses choose to earn their ADN first and then to bridge into a BSN to help advance in their careers.

A BSN is offered at colleges and universities and prepares nurses to practice across all health care settings. In addition, a BSN is required for entry into a master's program, which may help lead to a career in management or more specialized nursing positions.

For those who are considering a career change, many universities also offer accelerated programs for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree in another field. After graduation, all prospective nurses must complete a license examination.

The nursing shortage is a national problem and reaching out to men is one of the many solutions needed to solve this challenge.

Partners for a Healthy Community (PHC) is a consortium of healthcare providers, educational institutions and community partners funded by WCF whose mission is to increase the supply of trained healthcare professionals in the Central Florida region covering Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter counties.

PHC modeled its marketing plan after a successful campaign with the same name from the Oregon Center for Nursing and purchased the rights to the attention-getting tagline. The campaign imagery is comprised of eight male registered nurses from three of the five PHC hospital partners, Orlando Regional Healthcare, Florida Hospital and Health Central, and a future RN student. The RNs are diverse in age, ethnicity and specialty including critical care, ER, medical oncology and cardiac, and campaign graphics show their many hobbies such as rock climbing, surfing and music.

For information about becoming a nurse or the Men in Nursing program, visit www.WorkforceCentralFlorida.com/PHC/.

WORKFORCE CENTRAL FLORIDA (WCF) is the region's workforce expert, helping over 4,700 employers connect with more than 38,000 job seekers. WCF offers innovative solutions to assist Central Florida businesses succeed in today's highly competitive workforce, while providing the tools job seekers need to find or advance in their current career. For more information, visit WCF online at www.WorkforceCentralFlorida.com.