

KCC students help area school nurses



Written by

Justin A. Hinkley

The Enquirer

2:54 AM, Apr. 28, 2011|

Kellogg [CommunityCollege](#) nursing students are giving a little bit of help to local "Super Women."

Since last spring, the college's nursing program has partnered with the Calhoun Intermediate [SchoolDistrict](#) and the Calhoun County Public Health Department to put nursing students in local schools. The program had a test-run in the fall of 2009.

"The interaction is absolutely amazing," said Julia Van Houten, a second-year nursing student working Wednesday at Urbandale Elementary. "It's amazing to see the school nurse and everything she deals with single-handedly, like Super Woman."

Currently, 24 students are working in six area schools, said Theresa Dawson, director of nursing education at the college. And the school expects to increase that this fall. The program is funded in part by a \$100,000 Michigan Department of Community Health grant the local health department received last fall.

The students focus on health education, giving presentations on everything from hand-washing to lice control at area classrooms, and help out school nurses already in place.

"I definitely feel more comfortable working with pediatrics and children," said Ashley Wedel, another second-year student at Urbandale.

Gwen Henry, a KCC clinical nursing instructor, said the students learn how to take their own classroom lessons and translate them into simpler lessons for the students. That's important, she said, as nurses have to translate lessons about health to a wide variety of patients.

Dawson said the students help school nurses however they need help, helping give immunizations and aiding a countywide effort to measure body-mass index on the area's children to gauge the local prevalence of childhood obesity.

Dawson said people often think of nurses

Advertisement



**Protect Your Home
with ADT!**

ADT AUTHORIZED DEALER

**Click Here
to Learn More!**

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™



as "task-oriented" people who take blood pressure or set up IV bags at doctors' orders. But one of a nurse's biggest jobs is education and preventive care, she said. Teach kids how to properly wash their hands or sanitarily blow their nose, Dawson said, and you can prevent the spread of infection, for example.

"And, of course, their parents are teaching them that stuff," Van Houten said. "But coming from someone in blue scrubs, it makes more of an impact."

Advertisement

**Protect Your Home
with ADT!**

ADT AUTHORIZED DEALER

**[Click Here
to Learn More!](#)**

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™