

The Fort Hall CNA Class that began in June has ended successfully! Of the twenty-two women who were initially admitted to the class, one decided to not attend because she wouldn't be able to commit to every class; two dropped out shortly after classes began deciding it was not something they really wanted to do; and two had life get in the way ... seventeen ladies completed the 10-week course, two evenings a week, five hours each evening.



Students hard at work in the Fort Hall classroom.



Clinicals at the Veterans Center in Pocatello.

Some of the classes required them to drive from Fort Hall to Pocatello for their lab instruction where there were hospital beds, manikins, wheelchairs – more of the 'real world' setting – where they practiced their nursing assistant skills. The last couple of weeks were spent at the Veterans Center in Pocatello where they applied their didactic instruction tending to Center residents.

They were very well received. Cheryl DenHartog, the Workforce Training Health Programs Manager and instructor of the course said, "All students came to class eager to learn and ready to do what it took to succeed. Comments reflected that they appreciate the confidence all parties have in them and are grateful for the funding that was provided for them. These efforts do not go unrecognized by the students. I don't think I have seen the level of group-wide hard work that I have seen in this class. I am amazed at the effort and heart behind preparing for this class. From Donner Ellsworth's (EET/TANF) genuine concern that we identify all barriers to success to Judy McClanahan's (P4P) numerous humble generousities, to Norma Wadsworth's (CHN) seeking additional funding for clinical supplies, gas and daycare to community members offering free tutoring. All involved are going beyond the requirements of the job."



Fourteen of the seventeen members of the class received their certificates of class completion at a dinner in their honor.



Randy'L Teton, P4P, Angela Mendez, Tribal Health Director, and Norma Wadsworth, Community Health Nursing Manager

Student comments:

I am so grateful to everyone who made this class possible. Now I know the correct way to take care of my family members.

Thank you for this opportunity; it was quite a learning experience.

I did it! If I can do this – I can do anything!!! I was 'stuck' for so long. Now I feel better about myself. I want to apply for another course. It was a lot of hard work, but now I know

that hard work makes me feel good and I can do whatever my heart desires!

I, personally, would not have been able to take this class if it hadn't been paid for. It gave me self-confidence, it empowered me. I set a good example for my kids.

It wasn't easy juggling this class, working part-time, and kids. But, now I know I can do this. I have big goals for my kids, this has been good for them to see that Mom can do it. It was hard work and they had to be patient with me.

I came close to quitting a couple times, it was hard, and I had to take care of family members. I didn't quit, and that feels so good.

I'm so glad I did it, thank you for the opportunity.

When Cheryl, the instructor, told them about the total amount of funding that was provided for them they were shocked and very grateful.

Several students said the trips to Pocatello were a real hardship with gas prices. Having half the classes in Fort Hall decreased this hardship greatly.

Two students said they never would have been able to afford CNA training without this help. They desperately wanted to take the class in the past, but couldn't.

Twelve of the successful seventeen said this has motivated them to future training/education.



Cheryl DenHartog, instructor

Thank you to everyone who supported this worthwhile and successful project.

It takes a community, it takes a tribe.

(Updates will be coming as the students complete their skills test, their written test, and the final step, receive their certification as nursing assistants!)