

Edison State College launches four new bachelor programs

The Florida State Board of Education has approved Edison State College's applications for four new bachelor degree programs slated to begin this fall. The four programs include a bachelor of applied science in cardiopulmonary sciences and three bachelor of science degrees in middle school education: math, science and language arts.

The cardiopulmonary program will prepare current professionals and future graduates to adopt expanded roles, work more independently across the continuum of care and collaborate as partners on the healthcare delivery team. The industry standard within the profession is transitioning from previously requiring an associate's degree to requiring baccalaureate level preparation. No other institution in the area offers this program.

In 2008, Florida employed 11,515 people in this field. It is projected that a bachelor's degree will be the minimum requirement within five years.

Currently, there is no public or private school in Southwest Florida to educate middle school math, science or language arts teachers, but the state of Florida predicts it will need to hire more than 3,000 middle school teachers in the next several years.

The middle grades programs will prepare graduates to teach grades five through nine. The three programs represent the top three critical teacher shortage areas for 2009-2010, as determined by the Department of Education in December 2008. The Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation finds that by the 2012-2013 academic year there will be a need for an additional 3,397 such teachers in Florida.

Edison State College now offers a total of 10 bachelor degree programs, including public safety administration, secondary biology, secondary math, elementary education, nursing and supervision and management.

For more information about the new degree in cardiopulmonary sciences, call Dr. Jeff Elsberry at (239) 489-9251.

For more information about any of the six education degrees offered at ESC, contact the School of Education at (239) 489-9369.

Edison State College is Southwest Florida's largest, most established, school of higher education serving more than 20,000 students in five counties with campuses in Lee, Collier and Charlotte, and a center serving Hendry/Glades. Many classes are available online at www.edison.edu. ■



COURTESY PHOTO
From left, TEAM Punta Gorda President Roger Peterson, TEAM board member Brenda Lynch, Golf Committee Chair Dee Papa, TEAM CEO Nancy Prafke and Vice President Tom Kerr.

TEAM's first tourney raises \$10,000

For the first time in what seems like a long time, the weather in Punta Gorda was delightful as TEAM Punta Gorda held its fifth annual Golf Tournament at St. Andrews South Golf Club on March 27.

"We had a full field of 104 golfers," said Dee Papa, chairperson of the event. "And despite a challenging economy, we had over 50 sponsors who gave generously to support our tournament. Thanks to the hard work of our golf committee and countless volunteers, we were able to achieve terrific results."

Major sponsors for the event included

Judy and Mike Brentano, Gene Gorman Auto Sales, the Charlotte Sun, Millenium Physician Group, Weiler Engineering, and Merrill Lynch - The MC Group and Michael Landsberg & Associates. TEAM volunteer Marilyn Thomas served as the event photographer.

The tournament exceeded its goal of \$10,000 which will make it possible for TEAM to continue serving as a collaborative resource to accelerate revitalization of the greater Punta Gorda area. Every dollar received is an investment in TEAM's community endeavors. ■

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