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MSCC Hires Pharmacy Tech Professional to Coordinate New Program

Ann Oberg, a Certified Pharmacy Technician with 25 years of experience in the profession as a practitioner and as an instructor, has joined the Allied Health Sciences staff at Mid-South Community College. She will serve as Program Specialist/Faculty for the new Pharmacy Technician certificate program which begins this fall.



“We are fortunate to have someone as eminently qualified as Ann to help us establish and build our program,” said Jason Sparks, M.Ed., Allied Health & Life Sciences Program Coordinator at MSCC. “Her combination of professional training and educational experience are a perfect fit to take our program to the highest level.”

“Ann is genuinely interested in helping students achieve their goals, and she has a passion for educating technicians. I am confident she can guide our students along this rewarding and exciting career path.”

Oberg has worked in hospital, government and long-term care pharmacies and most recently coordinated the pharmacy technician program and taught at National American University (NAU) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

“NAU’s pharmacy technician program was highly successful, due in part to Ann’s tireless work ethic and her involvement in the pharmacy community,” Sparks said. “Career placement rates for her students were phenomenal, and the program thrived under her leadership.”

During her first three years at NAU, Oberg earned two “Teacher of the Quarter Awards” and was nominated eight times.

While not unhappy in her previous position, Oberg said she couldn't resist the chance to help build a program in West Memphis.

"It's a great opportunity because we're basically creating something from the ground up," she said. "We have already ordered equipment that many programs are not fortunate enough to have."

She said her goal is to make MSCC's program "into one of the best in the area, if not THE best in the country. I look at our students as pharmacy technicians of the future. We will give them a foundation that will allow them to handle the challenges of today as well adapt to changes of tomorrow."

While admitting that she likes to think five to ten years into the future, Oberg said that she hopes the 41-hour technical certificate program at MSCC is just the beginning of the pharmacy technology continuum.

Oberg is well known on a national level as an item writer for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE), a reviewer of pharmacy technician textbooks, and as a speaker at pharmacy technician conventions. She is involved in national pharmacy associations and is the current vice president of the American Association of Pharmacy Technicians (AAPT).

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology degree from Loras College, in Dubuque, Iowa in 1985 and began her pharmacy career at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She passed the Michigan-Illinois certification exam in 1992 and received her PTCB designation as a CPhT in 1995.

Oberg's position, along with the Pharmacy Technician program, was made possible by a Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

"This exciting program would not be possible if not for the generous cooperation of the U.S. Department of Education," Sparks said. "We are proud of this new opportunity to meet the needs of the community and region by offering expanded healthcare training opportunities in our new facility."

For more information about a career in this rapidly-evolving and professionally-rewarding field, please call Oberg at (870) 733-6042 or the Allied Health office at (870) 733-6038, access the college's website at www.midsouthcc.edu, or visit the campus at 2000 West Broadway in West Memphis.