

## Emergency Medical Systems

Meeting Date: March 29, 2023, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

### **External Participants: 4**

Tony Woodson – EMS Systems Coordinator – Kishwaukee Hospital

Jacob Moser – EMS Educator – Kishwaukee Hospital

Ryan Lange – EMS Educator – Northwestern Medicine

Jim Ward – Deputy Fire Chief – Sycamore Fire Department

### **Internal Participants: 6**

Angela Delmont – Director of Nursing for Jessica Berek, Dean of Instruction

Leslie Ciaccio – Coordinator of Complementary Health Programs

Riley Johnson – Student Representative

Susan Lencioni – Lead Paramedic Instructor

Joe Przybyla – Instructor/Paramedic NIU Police

Cindy Karasewski – Administrative Specialist 1

## **I. College Updates – Angie Delmont for Dr. Jessica Berek, Dean of Health Sciences**

- a. Overall enrollment and updates
- b. Discussion – Digital Skills in the Workforce
  - Digital skills - Do students have the basic entry level skills to meet the industry needs, are there skill gaps?
    - Yes, generally. Overall digital skills seem sufficient (and often exceed those of incumbent workers). However, fundamental skills with grammar, punctuation, and correct usage in report writing is a more frequent concern.
- c. PATH Grant for 2023
  - For EMT-B, we are likely to offer one course in the Fall since grant funds are unclear and registration is open already. If we can confirm grant funds, will likely offer two sections of EMT-B in Spring 2024 (like Spring 2023).
  - Feedback from employers: It would be very helpful if PATH funds could be used for paramedic classes. Cost of program is between \$7500 -\$10,000. Some students struggle financially; any grant funds that could help these students would be beneficial.

## **II. Program Updates - Anthony Woodson**

- a. Program Enrollment/Cohort Update
  - Paramedic class of 2021 graduated ten students.
    - 8 passed exam within first 3 tries

- 1 passed exam within 4 tries
  - 1 decided not to pursue the field
  - Overall, 80% success rate.
- Paramedic class of 2022 graduated four students.
  - 2 passed within first 3 tries
  - 2 did not pass after 4 tries
  - Overall, 50% success rate.
- EMT-Basic class of 2022 - 16 students passed class.
  - 12 registered for test, 5 passed
  - Overall, 42% success rate
- 2023 enrollment – 7 students in Paramedics and 29 in EMT-Basic.
- All discussed concerns regarding low pass rates in 2022; especially in EMT-B. Some ideas included considering adding co-requisites or pre-requisites (such as anatomy) or other test prep resources for students. Students across all programs have struggled with national standardized exams and different programs have tried different strategies (optional on campus reviews, online resources, etc.).

### **III. Partner Updates**

- a. Employment Outlook/Labor Market Data
  - Unlimited opportunities. Jobs are plentiful.
  - 4 out of 7 current paramedic students already have job opportunities.
  - Example area starting salaries:
    - Dekalb - \$69,000
    - Genoa - \$62,000 contracted
    - Higher in suburbs