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New College Grads Have 100 Percent Placement

Graduates Land Jobs In Health Care Industry

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WATSONVILLE, Calif. -- A brand-new school graduated its first class in Watsonville with a 100 percent placement rate.

There were 15 graduates of the certified nursing assistant and pharmacy technician programs at Monsbey College of Watsonville Saturday, and all of them have landed an externship or job.

The school started last October, specializing in high-demand health career training that the school said helps struggling families land secure jobs.

"Right away I worked full-time," Sarah Ferrera said.

After high school, Ferrera, of Aromas, worked 40-hour weeks to support herself.

"I was so tired working all the time to pay rent; I just couldn't find the time for college or anything," Ferrera said.

That all changed when she saw an ad in the paper for the Monsbey School of Watsonville dedicated to short-term job training for health care jobs like certified nurse assistant and pharmacy technician.

"When we came here, we found a need for a school like this in the community which can give jobs and help our families," said Koshy Skaria, Monsbey College founder.

Programs run an average of \$1,200 for about two dozen classes.

The school attracts those who can't spend much time or money on training for a specialized job.

"This is actually something that's doable for people like me. You don't have to have money already to have an education," Ferrera said.

The bad news for the graduating class: The California unemployment rate stands at 10.5 percent, so it's very competitive. The good news is the health care industry remains one of the strongest.

"This is an expanding field career; all the health care professions are just booming, and that's not going to change regardless of the economy," said Rocky Barrera, Monsbey College director.

All 15 graduates have found work in a local long-term care facility. Ferrera starts work as a pharmacy technician at a Rite Aid on Monday.

"The job security is really nice, and the fact that we're going to the internship and they might keep us, so already I feel more secure," Ferrera



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