



Features

For LVNs, career is source of pride



The 2009 graduating class of Copper Mountain College's licensed vocational nurse program.

By Rebecca Unger
Hi-Desert Star

Published: Saturday, May 23, 2009 2:07 AM CDT

Fourteen students graduated from Copper Mountain College's licensed vocational nursing program Wednesday. Program director Leslie Moody thanked the local partners who make the program possible. "It takes the whole community to produce these nurses," she observed, the grads agreed.

As loved ones affixed LVN pins onto the hardworking students, they also acknowledged the support, patience and understanding they received from family and friends.

"You didn't sleep, you didn't eat, you missed out on a lot of life going on around you," said past graduate Moses Serrano, speaking from experience.

"And drop the 'just' when you tell people you're an LVN. It's a career, a commitment, a life choice, a source of pride."

Comm. Carol Grush from the Naval hospital at Twentynine Palms told the graduates they were patient advocates as she welcomed them to the health care team. "You spend more time with the patient and their family than the doctor does," Grush said.

Student speaker Sarah TenBrink's voice choked as she addressed her fellow graduates, claiming, "We have achieved and qualified."

Student speaker Christy MacKewen's sense of humor lightened the solemnity when she shared the fledgling LVN's experiences on the job. "Patients at the hospital would go, 'Oh no! Why does their name tag say student?'" And she remembered the first time she had to give a shot. "I am about to poke another human being with a needle!"

Graduate Martin Zavala led his fellow LVNs in the Florence Nightingale Pledge as they promised to care for their patients "with compassion, skill and dignity."

The reception at Bruce's Coyote Kitchen included two beautiful cakes made by Zavala's mother. Next stop for the graduates: the future.

Copyright © 2009 - Hi-Desert Star

[x] Close Window