



News

Hospital hires graduates of nursing program

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JOSHUA TREE — A partnership with the community college here will keep Hi-Desert Medical Center supplied with registered nurses and help the local economy, hospital Chief Executive Officer Lionel “Chad” Chadwick said recently.

The hospital plans to hire 14 registered nurses from June’s graduating class at Copper Mountain College. In fact, some already are in orientation at the hospital.

“This will keep good-paying careers in the Basin as well as reduce the cost of purchased labor due to hiring from the nurses’ registry,” said Chadwick.

The nurses’ registry is a business that sends nurses to the hospital for a fee.

“We enjoy a really great partnership with Copper Mountain College, and it’s allowed us to grow our own nurses,” Chadwick said.

One of the district’s directors, Leslie Moody, developed the nursing curriculum at Copper Mountain College, and hospital Vice President of Patient Care Services Jackie Combs is a nursing instructor at the college.

The licensed programs at the Joshua Tree college are the same as those offered at Stanford University, the CEO remarked.

He also pointed out a hospital employee can go back to school at CMC, upgrade his skill sets and reach a higher level on his career ladder.

“Our organization is benefited and the community is benefited,” Chadwick said.

In fact, he added, the hospital has hired new registered nursing graduates who formerly worked for the hospital as licensed vocational nurses.

Chadwick observed that although there is not a nursing shortage at the moment in the Morongo Basin, the situation is temporary. He predicts the nursing job market will be affected by the numbers of people returning to the field because of current economic need.

“Soon the economy will come back and some of those who entered the workforce might not need to work anymore,” he predicted. “It will be very important that the college is there to fill in the ranks.”