

# TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Spring Newsletter

May 2024

by Tanna Duggins

## Advice from an RT Manager

1. Always say YES!
2. Follow the smartest/best clinicians: You always know who they are.
3. Do Not sit around in the breakroom-
4. Be a lifelong learner.
5. Be the content expert on everything RT!!
6. Don't ever let any other clinicians know your "stuff" more than you, especially the most basic "things"
7. If you're not early, you're late!!
8. Be humble and learn to accept failures, mistakes and mis-steps as learning opportunities.

-Jon Jahns- Virginia Mason

“Never lose sight of why you chose this profession. Always remember the impact you have on the lives of your patients. Never forget that you may be the only person that provides compassionate care during a patient's most vulnerable time. And most importantly, a friendly smile goes a long way (even through a face mask)”

-Liljana Andrich. Swedish First Hill

## TCC RESPIRATORY PROGRAM

The 2-year Respiratory Therapy program leads to an Associate in Applied Sciences degree. The Respiratory Care program at Tacoma Community College will make every effort to provide students the opportunities to learn and develop into a safe and rational respiratory care practitioner. It is incumbent upon the student to realize that certain manual, technical, and professional tasks must be mastered in order to achieve passing grades and to successfully complete the respiratory therapy curriculum.



REGISTRATION: \$50  
<https://www.tacomacc.edu/tcc-life/osr/rccconference>



SCAN ME



**TCC, RC STUDENT CLUB**  
*Conference*

**SPEAKERS:**  
 LEIGH BAKER, BAS-RRT  
 SARAH MALYON, RRT  
 KAREN LAROCHE, RRT  
 SHANNON PARKER, RRT  
 STACEY TOWERS, MHA, RRT-NPS, ACCS

**MAY 11TH, 2024**  
 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**LOCATION:**  
 TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
 6501 S. 19TH STREET  
 TACOMA WA. 98466  
 BUILDING 13

- 4.0 CRCEs
  - 2 Adult
  - 2 Neo-Peds

\* Pending Approval from AARC  
 Light refreshments will be provided

# TCC CONFERENCE

Saturday, May 11th 2024  
 9 AM- 2 PM

Please register using the QR Code to the right and support our Respiratory Care Club Conference! We are offering 4 CRCEs for \$50. We have five interesting speakers that day! We will be providing light refreshments as well, see you all there!!



## 50th Annual RCSW Respiratory Care Conference

During April, the RCSW 50th annual Respiratory Care Conference was hosted in Western Washington! There was an array of over 30 individual lectures in the general session, pediatric care and pulmonary diagnostics.

Student attendance at the conference this year was near 50% of attendees!



April 21-23, 2024



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## Student Activities



### Healthcare Pathway- Respiratory Therapy

May 1st- Education Planning Day at TCC included two rooms to explore skills: adults and neonates. Several students ran booths to answer any questions and demonstrate skills such as: swaddling, BVM, intubation, and mechanical ventilation. We even had a booth using high-frequency oscillatory ventilation with pig lungs!



### Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month

May is Cystic Fibrosis Awareness month! On May 5th, we walked with the Great Strides event, in support of Cystic Fibrosis, in Gig Harbor as Team "The Expectorants". Overall, our cohort, colleagues, friends and families raised \$768.64 for the CF Foundation!



### Neonatal & Pediatric Clinicals

TCC second-year students have started their rotations through Mary Bridge Children's Hospital! Each student spends five weeks at the clinical site, working in med/surg, PICU, and NICU!

## Student Highlight



“Hello everyone! My name is Kaelynn and I am a Junior representative at TCC. I am very excited to be a part of the SEC! I have always been interested in the healthcare pathway and being in a great Respiratory Care program has solidified my passion for the field! I hope to get more involved in the RT world outside of school and connect with other future RTs!”

*TCC Junior Representative  
for the Student Engagement Committee-  
Kaelynn Sharp*

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# Some Thoughts From Our Instructors

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## *Respiratory Care Program Director. Greg Carter*

I first got into the field of respiratory therapy to help people. Now, rather than working a shift clinically and helping patients, I get to cast a wider net. If I can teach students how to treat people the way that I would like to be treated myself, I'm fulfilling my original goal in a much bigger way. As a respiratory therapy educator, I get all the same satisfaction I would get from helping a patient, but I also get to be part of the profession moving forward. I didn't originally plan to become an educator. Nor did I think it would be something I would do for most of my career, but here I am, 22 years later. I've learned a lot in those 22 years. To me, being a respiratory therapy educator is so much more than just teaching and learning. It's mentoring students, modeling professionalism, encouraging students to step outside of the box, and never stop learning. We're there to guide students, inspire them, praise them when they do well, and help support them when they don't do as well.

I really enjoy watching students mature into true professional respiratory therapists and knowing I had a small influence. I'm always struck by the enormity of what we were able to carry out together in such a small amount of time. It's what drives me and brings me back to the next academic year. - G

## *Director of Clinical Education. Kellee Rickerl*

Over the last 30+ years, I have been fortunate enough to hold a license and practice & teach in four states, CA, OR, CO, and WA. I originally got into the field to use it as a stepping stone to M.D. Once I was a practicing RRT I realized I did not want to go to medical school! This career has given me a life I truly love and I will be forever appreciative. There are so many aspects of being an educator that I truly enjoy. One is sharing my passion for neonatal and pediatric respiratory care. I have worked at two award-winning Children's Hospitals in my career. Two is having a generational impact on my graduates' families. By helping my students achieve their goals and dreams I have a small part in affecting change in their families for years to come. Observing their successes and growth in life truly brings me joy.

## *Dean of Healthcare. Brandon Censon*

I began my journey in Respiratory Care shortly after completing high school, initially stepping into the healthcare field as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). That initial experience was incredibly formative, offering me invaluable insights and solidifying my passion for healthcare. Reflecting on the past 16 years, I am immensely proud of the diverse experiences and the profound impact I've been able to make across the spectrum of patient care, from diagnosis to rehabilitation.

My career journey didn't stop at direct patient care; it also ushered me into the realm of academia, a sector that truly resonates with my innermost passions. The opportunity to nurture and shape the minds of our future healthcare professionals brings me immense joy and satisfaction.

Currently, I have the honor of serving as the Interim Dean of the Healthcare Division in the Tacoma area, where I get to influence a broader spectrum of disciplines and touch the lives of an even larger cohort of students. This role has been a remarkable chapter in my career, symbolizing a full circle moment: from being a student myself to leading the very educators who will inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals. It's a profound reminder of the impact we can make, shaping the future of healthcare one student at a time.

## *Lab Instructor. Joel Ray*

"After 33+ years in Respiratory Care and several different job titles, working with new students interested in our profession has been incredibly rewarding. Before I retire, I want to help contribute (along with our other outstanding educators) in developing the areas best RCP's around. I love you guys!"

Thank you for reading & all the support!

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