

WPCC, VGH name joint worker

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An innovative plan for acquiring qualified nursing instructors for part-time positions in the hospital setting has been initiated by Western Piedmont Community College and Valdese General Hospital.

The joint appointment of a registered nurse to work full time on the staff of Valdese General Hospital and concurrently serve as a part-time clinical nursing instructor at WPCC was announced recently by Charles Frock, Chief Executive Officer of Valdese General, and George Fouts, vice president for academic affairs at the college.

The agreement is one of the first of its type in North Carolina.

Mrs. Maretta H. Hamrick, R.N. has been selected as the first staff nurse/instructor under the new plan. Mrs. Hamrick is a graduate of the associate degree nursing program at WPCC, and received her bachelor's degree in nursing from UNC-Charlotte.

Under the joint appointment, the college reimburses the hospital for the release time of the staff nurse/instructor, who is then assigned to staff nursing three days a week and clinical instructions of WPCC students on the other two days.

According to Mary Alice Withers, Director of Nursing at Valdese General Hospital, and Patricia Crumpler, Program Coordinator for Nursing at WPCC, the plan is advantageous for the staff nurse/instructor, the nursing

staff, and the nursing faculty.

One of the major advantages is the staff nurse/instructor is involved with the care of patients and instruction of students in the same health care facility.

The benefits of full-time employment with the hospital while holding a part-time position as clinical instructor increases the job satisfaction of the nurse who enjoys both the clinical and instructional roles.

The combination of responsibilities enables better communication and cooperation between the staff of the clinical agency and the nursing faculty at the college. The tie between nursing services and nursing education is a significant benefit.

The joint appointment plan will be an on-going agreement between the institutions to provide qualified registered nurses as clinical instructors.