BCCC looks to health-care future

For three decades in the Pamlico area, Beaufort County Community College has been working to meet the demand for nurses with a program that leads to an associate in applied science degree in nursing whose graduates can become licensed as registered nurses. In addition, the college offers a shorter program that leads to licensure as a practical nurse. Laura Bliley, director of the BCCC nursing program since July, believes the program is growing and will continue to meet the increasing need for professional nurses. In the United States, nursing is the largest health care profession, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. More than 2 million registered nurses are actively employed and nursing comprises the largest single component of hospital staff. Despite of those statistics, a nationwide nursing shortage exists. Bliley feels that fewer women are choosing nursing as a career because so many more options are available to them than in previous decades. By the same token, she believes that men represent a great potential pool of students for meeting the nursing shortage and that those who choose the career would find it an exceptionally rewarding one. BCCC's current nursing program grew out of a bond referendum in 1987 that established a practical nursing program at then Beaufort County Technical Institute. The ADN program was established four years later.

To read the entire article about BCCC's nursing program by Robert S. Hackney, visit the Washington Daily News website at www.wdnweb.com.

BCCC student, Patricia Cox has twin callings: the ministry and writing

The Rev. Patricia Cox closes herself in two rooms of her parsonage in Belhaven on a recent afternoon in December. Isolated in her study, where the electric heater is running, and the adjoining parlor, Cox is trying to keep warm. Lately, the minister has been pulling double duty. She's serving as pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Belhaven and pastor at Hebron Church in Pantego while also trying her hand at being a student. Last fall she enrolled in an English class at Beaufort County Community College taught by Bryan Oesterreich, a regular

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