

Stockton in Manahawkin Opens Expanded Site

Stockton University at Manahawkin has tripled its size with an expansion that increases health science programs and other courses, and adds a student lounge.

The expansion into the adjacent 7,915-square-foot building at 712 East Bay Ave., former site of Rothman Institute Orthopaedics, gives nursing students more room for hands-on learning in the six-bed Foundations of Nursing lab and seven physical assessment examining rooms.

Stockton at Manahawkin also has room for additional general education courses for the convenience of students living in Ocean County.

"I love it," said student Ann Smith, 21, of Manahawkin, who along with classmates in the Accelerated BSN, or TRANSCCEL, program, used the site for the first time on Jan. 18.

The Accelerated BSN students will spend one full day a week in class at the site in addition to their clinical assignments and other classes.

The new site includes a lobby/lounge area with seating where students can eat lunch. There are a faculty lounge and small student hospitality area with snacks and coffee.

Artwork from the Noyes Museum collection, including some by Fred Noyes, is exhibited throughout the site, adding color and interest.

"It is much more spacious and very beautiful," said student Christian Dy of Mullica Hill.

"They are here all day, and we want to them feel welcomed and comfortable," said Michele Collins-Davies, the site manager.



Courtesy Stockton University

SMART SETTING: The lobby/lounge area is a comfortable place for students to eat lunch, take a break or bring a workbook. The expansion is also open with more classrooms and labs for nursing and health sciences.

Edward Walton, interim associate dean of health sciences at Stockton, said the new site facilitates the expansion of the 15-month Accelerated BSN program and the RN to BSN program, a hybrid program that meets both online and in Manahawkin.

"The RN to BSN is for the student who wants the flexibility of an online program, but also some in-class support," Walton said. "The site fits the needs of students in a welcoming environment."

The Accelerated BSN program is for students with a bachelor's degree,

typically in a health or science field, who want to become a registered nurse with a BSN. Twenty-four students are in the current cohort, and a new class will start in the fall.

The expansion will also allow Stockton to increase the number of general education and core health sciences courses that are offered in Manahawkin from the current 19 to 31 in the fall.

Summer courses are also offered at the Manahawkin site, and 2018's offerings will include Science of Forecasting Waves, Baseball History

and Literature, Hispanic Literature and Film, Car Culture in America, Beaches, Business Basics and Introduction to Health Sciences.

An official dedication for the expansion will be held at 11:30 a.m. March 8.

For more information on courses offered at Stockton at Manahawkin, go to Stockton.edu/Manahawkin. To learn more about nursing programs at Stockton, go to Stockton.edu/health-sciences.

— **Maria Scandale**
mariascandale@thesandpaper.net