

National Guard learns nursing skills at Truax

STUART PATE
News Editor

COVID-19 has led to an unusual collaboration between the Wisconsin National Guard and Madison College.

Late last semester, Dr. Lisa Marie Greenwood, Associate Professor of Nursing at Madison College, received an email from the Wisconsin Department of Human Services proposing a large-scale task. Greenwood was asked if Madison College could train between 80 and 120 Wisconsin National Guardsmen to work as nursing aids. Greenwood replied simply, "How can we help?"

"We sharpened our pencils and got to work," continued Greenwood.

The National Guard has been charged with an urgent if not unusual mission. Guardsmen have been and

will be trained as nursing aids to be deployed across Wisconsin to work in long-term care facilities.

Hospital beds are full, said Greenwood. This creates a bottleneck of care. Hospitals want to discharge patients that still need care. By staffing long term care facilities, they will be able to accommodate more patients in need of care.

"There's a lot of moving parts," said Greenwood.

"As cases of Omicron continue to surge, this support is critical for supporting Wisconsin's nursing homes," said DHS Secretary designee Karen Timberlake in a press release.

Guardsman came to Madison College and participated in an emergency nurse aid training program. This program emulates Madison College's digital certificate nurse aid training

program, though the guardsmen did not receive college credit. Still, they were put through their paces.

Guardsmen learned basic skills including communication, understanding resident rights, safety and infection control. These are all skills necessary in Wisconsin before a student can lay hands on a patient.

The guardsmen then moved to the Truax nursing skills lab where they participated in Supervised Practical Training.

They practiced on each other, said Greenwood. "It's one thing to brush your own teeth, it's completely different to safely brush someone else's teeth."

They fed each other. They gave each other bed baths. Guardsmen did what they needed to obtain skills to support long-term care facilities.

Despite this intense attention to the National Guard, no resources have been diverted away from Madison College students. No sections have been canceled.

"The Wisconsin National Guard has been heavily engaged in the battle against COVID-19 since day one of this pandemic," said Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp. "We see ourselves as neighbors helping neighbors, and when we say that we mean it."

The guardsmen and Madison College faculty were absolutely amazing to work with, said Greenwood. They were diligent, organized and collaborative. They embraced this as a mission, rolled up their sleeves and got to work.

"We're doing it again," said Greenwood. The next flight of guardsmen will be arriving Feb. 9 and graduating 10 days later.



LUIS ALCALA ROBLERO / CLARION

PAC member Meriem Yahiaoui shows the stuffed animal she made at the Truax Campus Winterfest event on Jan. 31.



LUIS ALCALA ROBLERO / CLARION

The Geology Club recruited members at Winterfest.



LUIS ALCALA ROBLERO / CLARION

Noely Bonilla shows the stuffed animal she made.

Volunteer Center helps out at kitchen

LAUREN TALLION
Arts Editor

On Jan. 17, nine students from Madison College's volunteer center helped Little John's Kitchen get meals out to community sites in need for Martin Luther King Day.

"The volunteer center student organization is all about providing different options for students. So one of the student leaders of the volunteer organization, her name is Madeline, she created that volunteer opportunity for students over winter break," said Brianna Stapelton Welch, Madison College's volunteer center advisor.

Little John's Kitchen is an organization that uses unwanted food from grocery stores, farms and restaurants, to make homemade chef quality meals for those in need. They also have a meals on wheels program designed for seniors. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Little John's Kitchen sends delivery drivers to drop off dinner and a dessert for those who place an order through their website. The meals range from pesto pasta and Swedish meatballs, to BBQ chicken mac and beef stew.

The students were placed into a wide variety of volunteer groups and helped with tasks such as: making sandwiches, assembling salads, packaging up sauce, sanitizing containers, labeling packages and sorting fruit.

"There was, gosh, I think 400 to 500 meals to get out into the community, so once one type of meal was finished, they put us on onto the next one. So each of us got moved around to different volunteer stations throughout the afternoon," Welch said.

While there are other volunteer events in the works at Madison College currently, the details of those events are still being worked out. Welch did say however, that on March 2, there will be a volunteer fair and on April 13, there will be a food drive. She also said that something is being planned for Valentine's Day and spring break, but she didn't have those details quite yet.

For students who are interested in getting involved with Madison College's volunteer center student organization, they can join the group via WolfPack Connect, follow the group's Facebook and Instagram pages or keep a look out for posted events on Madison College's digital TVs around campus.

Menning offers new ideas as peer health educator

KALEIA LAWRENCE
Editor in Chief

A new semester brings new events on campus and fresh faces to student organizations. Katie Menning is a new peer health educator, and she's excited for what's ahead.

Although she's new to the peer health educator program, she's been around Madison College before. In 2015, Menning got two associate degrees. She's now pursuing her first technical diploma in the medical assisting program.

One of the degrees that Menning holds is in global health. When considering how students at Madison College approach life, she understands that different areas of the world have different

access to resources.

"When it comes to my global health degree, I can kind of bring in that aspect of what's going on in European countries compared to what's going on out on the West Coast," said Menning. "It's just bringing more awareness and to connect with students who are not from the Madison area who are international students to be like, hey, you're from this region; this is what's going on here, this is how it can affect you and what you can do to help prevent it for yourself."

Menning is excited about different opportunities to work with students.

"I actually volunteered for three years abroad to 22 different countries teaching English, sexual reproductive health, animal rehabilitation and

women empowerment. So when I saw that this role was up for hire, I was like, I can definitely bring in my aspects from that," said Menning.

One of the events was National Wear Red Day, which is Feb. 4. Peer health educators gave out heart awareness t-shirts leading up to the day. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease and stroke cause one in three deaths among women each year, more than all cancers combined.

Another event coming up this month is a fitness challenge called Spring Forward: Get Moving. The challenge is to exercise for 150 minutes to earn a Healthy Cookbook. Visit <https://bit.ly/FitnessChallenge22> to learn more.