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Western Sierra Medical Clinic gives hands-on training to nursing students

Western Sierra Medical Clinic in Grass Valley has established a partnership with California State University, Sacramento and Sierra College to provide hands-on education and on-site training for nursing students.

The state university and community college's nursing programs are rotating about 50 students this semester through Western Sierra Medical Clinic.

Sacramento State nursing students, who are a few weeks away from earning a bachelors of science degree in nursing, get firsthand experience in leadership and community health at Western Sierra, while supervised by Jennifer Hughes, a registered nurse who oversees the nursing rotation at the health center for Sacramento State. Sierra College nursing students focus on pediatric health issues, especially preventive and urgent care, during their clinical rotation at Western Sierra.

Clinic officials and nursing educators have found that on-site training helps students by providing real-life clinical experiences, situations and training.

Western Sierra, the largest outpatient provider in Nevada County, offers comprehensive services at its 19,000-square-foot health center, where nursing students follow pediatricians from the diagnosis of an illness or injury to the implementation of treatment.

Students also learn about preventive care, such as blood work, testing and vaccines – and urgent care, where children may be dealing with a cough or cold to a cut.

Western Sierra Medical Clinic provides comprehensive medical, dental and behavioral health care in Nevada, Sierra and Yuba counties. Founded in 1975, Western Sierra is the largest outpatient health care provider in Nevada County, where a new full-service health center is meeting the growing demands in the community. Western Sierra Medical Clinic will expand later this year into Placer County, with a comprehensive health center in Auburn. For more information, visit http://www.wsmcmed.org and on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/WesternSierraMedicalClinic.