

# THE LIFELINE

Iowa Health Educators Association  
February 2020  
Edition 1, Volume 1

## Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Iowa Health Educators board members I welcome you to enjoy this newsletter. It is a goal of the board to increase networking through a quarterly newsletter. We are hoping the newsletter will also show case the health career activities from high schools, community colleges, and 4-year universities. Every

a new teacher's workshop. IHEA has allowed me to network with other health care educators in which I have gained knowledge and confidence in my teaching skills. A strong support system has also developed that include mentors, networking, and lifelong friendships. I am excited by IHEA's growth and our goals to increase communication between

checking the IHEA's web page and watch for an e-mail with early bird registration information.

This newsletter high lights Melanie Wynja from Dordt University and Cherrie Weih from Kirkwood Community College. Enjoy!!

**Maureen Weaver MSN, M.Ed.**  
IHEA President

“ IHEA has allowed me to network with other health care educators in which I have gained knowledge and confidence in my teaching skills. A strong support system has also developed that include mentors, networking, and lifelong friendships. ”

health educator is working hard to deliver high quality education and we would like to showcase your hard work. I would greatly appreciate hearing from you in what you would like to see in the newsletter. We encourage you to send photos of your activities that are promoting health education/careers and comments to weaver@swcciowa.edu.

Several years ago, I was introduced to IHEA while attending

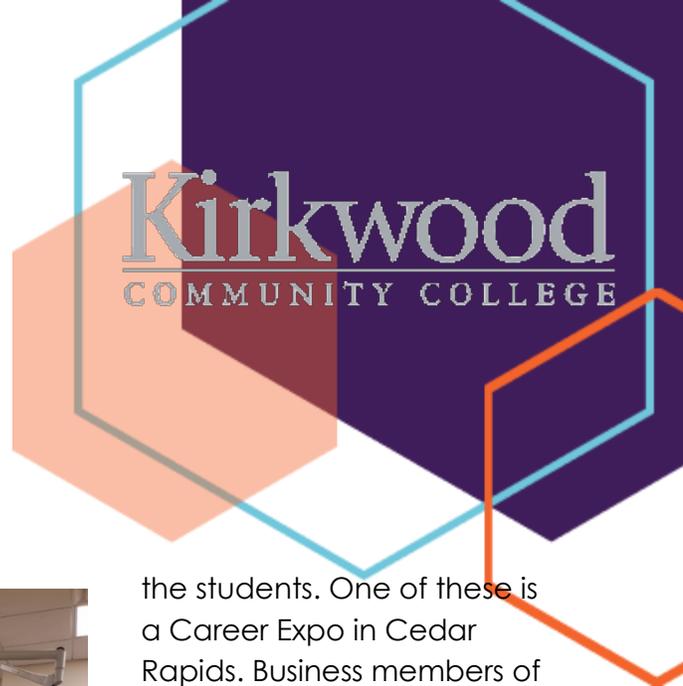
members and sharing each other's knowledge and talents.

I would like to remind everyone to check IHEA's web page at [iowahealthed.org](http://iowahealthed.org) for 2020 Conference information. This year's conference theme is *Breaking Down Silos, Building Bridges, Creating Pathways* will be held at *Prairie Meadows* June 18-19. A preconference will be held June 17 and is geared towards SIM educators. Please keep



# PATIENT CARE ACADEMY

Kirkwood Community College



## Cherrie Weih

*Patient Care Academy Coordinator*

I am the Coordinator of the Patient Care Academy at Kirkwood Community College. I am passionate about promoting the various opportunities in health care. Apparently this has rubbed off on my daughters as I have a chemist, speech-language pathologist, paramedic, and my youngest contemplating Nursing! I am excited to be on the IHEA Board. It is a chance to be involved/collaborate with other health educators across the State as well as to promote health education/opportunities to the upcoming generation.

In the Academy, I generally have an average of 250 students in the 7 county area each year. Students have the opportunity to earn 12.5 college credit hours while in high school, while also earning their CNA. I have a wonderful opportunity to partner with the Health Care Sector Board to offer some awesome experiences for



*Kirkwood Simulation Center – ICU*



*Career Expo 11-2019*

the students. One of these is a Career Expo in Cedar Rapids. Business members of the Sector Board work together to represent multiple health care pathways. Each business comes with a hands on activity for the students to participate in and materials about the career they are representing.

The students end the semester with Professionals in Health and touch on resume writing and interviewing techniques as part of the class. With the involvement of the Sector Board, the students participate in Mock Interviews. The students arrive with copies of their resume, dressed professionally, and then rotate between stations engaging with employers that represent varying types of facilities. A few students even had the benefit of being hired!

# BSN PROGRAM

Dordt University

**Melanie Wynja, MSN, RN, CHSE**

*Instructor of Nursing*



Dordt University began their complete BSN program in 2018, transitioning from an RN-BSN program. The newly renovated nursing department and simulation center was completed in Fall 2019. I began in nursing education at Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) in 2003 after experience in Neurology, rural hospital nursing, and Occupational Health. The last 3 years at NCC, I was involved in the IHUM grant to develop the simulation program. I began at Dordt in August 2017, and assisted with the lab design and remodel, now serving as an instructor of nursing and simulation.

I was introduced to the IHEA at NCC and it quickly became a valuable resource to me. One of the first nursing education conferences I attended was sponsored by the IHEA. The information presented was very beneficial and beyond that, the networking with other nursing instructors was vital to my growth in health education. These contacts grew into valuable resources and colleagues over the years and I especially appreciate the mentors I have had in simulation from the network. The IHEA is a unique place we can come together to share and support one another~ it is one of the most collaborative groups I have been involved with. I encourage all members

to continue supporting one another and to reach out and invite other health educators from any discipline or educational institute to attend the conference and become involved. The benefits of this network are priceless!

## **BONUS VIDEO FEATURE!**

The university just finished a new academic promotional video about our new sim labs. [Click here to check it out!](#)





## **IHEA 2020 Conference**

June 17 – 19<sup>th</sup>, Prairie Meadows in Altoona, IA

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**HEALTH EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE: BREAKING DOWN SILOS,  
BUILDING BRIDGES, CREATING PATHWAYS**

**The annual Iowa Health Educators Association (IHEA) and  
Iowa Community College Simulation Network (ICCSN)  
conference will take place at Prairie Meadows in Altoona, IA.**

**On June 17<sup>th</sup>, join our preconference workshops geared  
towards novice health educators, deans/directors, and/or  
healthcare sim educators.**

**The 15<sup>th</sup> annual IHEA conference will continue June 18-19<sup>th</sup>  
focusing on three tracks: Simulation,  
Teaching/Strategies/Education Best Practice, and Allied  
Health.**

**We hope to reach educators in all facets! Whether you are  
from a community college, a four year institute, private  
practice, or hospital based we'll have something for  
everyone!**

Read more: <https://iowahealthed.org/>