



## Barrington 220 Introduces Health Sciences Lab

AST SUMMER Barrington 220 converted a previously-used desktop computer lab at Barrington High School into a new Health Sciences Lab, which opened at the start of the 2018-19 school year. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2,400,000 new jobs in health care will be needed by 2026. Quintessential Barrington talked with Barrington 220 Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Brian Harris, about how this unique space will help prepare students for a successful career in the healthcare field.

**QB:** *Why did BHS decide to build the new Health Sciences Lab?*

**BH:** Through a Barrington High School survey, we know that about a quarter of BHS juniors and seniors have an interest in the field of medicine. The new Health Sciences Lab provides







our students with a health care pathway leading to in-demand careers. BHS has offered this pathway in the past, however students had to take the classes on the Harper College campus, requiring up to three periods for travel. Students in Advanced Placement classes, or those who have a full schedule, were unable to take advantage of these health care courses because of the travel time.

**QB:** *How is the new Health Sciences Lab different from a typical classroom?*

**BH:** The 1,660 square foot classroom mimics a hospital room and lab, complete with hospital beds, a non-functioning patient bathroom that allows students to simulate bathing and other hygiene procedures, a mock consultation room, and live video equipment which can be used to demonstrate procedures. The lab also has flexible seating stations, which allow seamless transitions during various exercises among large groups, small groups, and individual students.

**QB:** *What types of courses are offered in the new Health Sciences Lab?*

**BH:** There are three courses students can take in the Health Sciences Lab, including: Introduction to Health Care, Medical Terminology, and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). All three classes are offered to juniors and seniors, except the CNA course, which is only for seniors. The Introduction to Health Care course familiarizes students with the health care system, placing an emphasis on the importance of effective communication skills for healthcare professionals, team building, professionalism, and diversity in the field. In the Medical Terminology course, students learn about the origin and basic structure of medical words. The CNA course provides theory and training in the basic skills essential to the practice of health care workers, who will assist nurses in the care of patients. The completion of the CNA course is required for the application for the Nurse Aide Competency exam. There are about 90 students enrolled in all three classes for the fall semester.



## Meet the Teacher

Kelly Allen joined Barrington 220 at the start of the 2018-19 school year. She teaches the Introduction to Health Care and Certified Nursing Assistant courses. Allen is a professor in the Health Careers Department at Harper College. She also works as a registered nurse at University of Illinois Hospital. Allen has worked in the nursing field for more than 24 years, as a staff nurse, school nurse, and nurse educator. She is a certified technical educator.



PHOTOS: LIZ BENEDETTO

Getting ready for the ribbon cutting in the new BHS Health Sciences Lab at the recent Alumni Legends: Prescription for Success.



Members of the Barrington 220 Educational Foundation and donors at Alumni Legends: Prescription for Success.

## Alumni Legends: Prescription for Success

In September 2018, the Barrington 220 Educational Foundation and the Barrington High School Alumni Association hosted its 7th annual Alumni Legends event, “Prescription for Success”. The event included an open house for the new Health Sciences Lab, followed by a panel discussion featuring BHS alumni in the health care field. The lab was made possible in part through donations from the Barrington 220 Educational Foundation and the Joyce Foundation.

**QB:** *Can students receive college credit for taking any of the three health care courses?*

**BH:** Students have the opportunity to receive “dual credit”, which includes BHS credit and college credit at Harper College. They can receive two credits for Introduction to Health Care, two for Medical Terminology, and six credits for the CNA course. Students are encouraged to take all three courses, which would give them 10 credits at Harper College, before they even graduate from high school. Students in the CNA course have the opportunity to take the CNA certification exam in May at Harper College. If they pass, they receive CNA certification, which allows them to work in any health care facility that employs certified nursing assistants. 