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POST JOURNAL
7/18/2015

WCA Medical Lab Holds Graduation Ceremony

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After an intensive 11-month course, WCA Hospital has eight new graduates from its Medical Laboratory Science Program.

On Friday, the graduation ceremony was held for the students. This is the 35th anniversary of the program. Michele G. Harms, WCA Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program director, said only a few hospitals in the region have a Medical Laboratory Science Program. The clinical program is for fourth-year or senior year college students enrolled in a bachelor's degree program in medical technology.

"This is probably the toughest thing to date the graduates have accomplished," she said. "Only these graduates, and past graduates, know how amazing this year was."

This year's class included Kelly Bates, SUNY Fredonia; Christine Bretscher, SUNY Brockport; Jennifer Clark, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania; Austie Lawrence, SUNY Fredonia; Michael Moore, SUNY Fredonia; Tina Stowell, Mercy College; Lindsay Wilson, Kent State University; and Kelci Yousett, SUNY Fredonia.

Janet L. McMillin-Jaszcz, WCA Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program clinical coordinator, told the students a lot of



From left, front row: Betsy Wright, WCA Hospital chief executive officer/president; Kelly Bates, graduate; Jennifer Clark, graduate; Austie Lawrence, graduate; Tina Stowell, graduate; and Michele G. Harms, WCA Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program director. From left, back row: Janet L. McMillin-Jaszcz, WCA Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program clinical coordinator; Christine Bretscher, graduate; Michael Moore, graduate; Lindsay Wilson, graduate; Kelci Yousett, graduate; and Christopher Srodawa, WCA Hospital Laboratory Services director; during the 2015 graduation ceremony for WCA Hospital's Medical Laboratory Science Program.

P-J photo by Dennis Phillips

WCA Hospital lab technicians helped them reach their goal of graduating from the program.

"Everybody in the lab wishes you the best," she said.

Patricia Lindquist, WCA Hospital clinical chemistry supervisor and instructor, gave the commencement address. She told the

graduates to always have a "can-do" attitude if they want to continue succeeding in their career.

"I hope WCA has prepared you for the real world, because ready or not, here it comes," she said.

Dr. Brian Meagher, WCA Foundation vice chairman and

grants committee chairman, gave the Murray S. Marsh award to the most outstanding student. This year's recipient was Lawrence, who along with an award received \$500. The award has been given each year since 2000. Marsh was the chief operations officer for the hospital.