



# The Casa Loma Pro



Patricia Colin talks with students about successes and challenges in getting a job.

## Coming up:

### •VAN NUYS

March 12 - Van Nuys Campus  
Bring A Friend To School Day  
Tommie's Burgers for Lunch!

March 18 - Vocational Nurse Start

### •HAWTHORNE

March 11 - Voc Nurse Class start  
March 25 - DMS Class start

## Habitual Excellence: Casa Loma's 2012 Valedictorian

Everyone wants that professional job. That's why we enrolled in our program; why we took on the debt; the workload; the grueling schedule that demands us to be present in both body and mind, no matter how much sleep we got the night before; why we cling to every single detail so we will not miss anything on the test.

We have a passion for people and a willingness to help. We have a goal that we set for ourselves ... to successfully complete our program. But ultimately, we want that career... that job. We know that the job is where we will be able to put our skills, knowledge, and training to use; where we will show our patients what real care is all about; where all this schooling will have paid off, both symbolically and literally. The career, the job, is why all this is worth it.

The final hurdle of your quest to become a professional in your field is breaking into that first healthcare job, and turning this almost completed goal into a profession is often a tough one. Casa Loma instructors know this. Yet they also know that students successfully do it, and have gone on to work in incredibly rewarding careers in healthcare, just like they set out to do.

On December 19, Vocational Nurse instructors invited graduates who successfully navigated the jungle of job hunting to come and talk to current Casa Loma students about what worked for them, and what challenges they faced. Both Patricia Colin and Krikor Nalbantian, graduates of the Vocational Nurse Program in Van Nuys,

took time to address the soon-to-be job seekers about what gives a candidate a leg-up in the job market, and what they did that proved successful.

The graduates also stressed the importance of staying fresh on the material learned in the program. This will help tremendously with the NCLEX Exam – do not forget what you learned. Colin said she did practice questions every day in the time between graduation and the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination).

When it came to the questions about getting employment, she was frank with the students. "It depends on the work you put into getting a job," she said. "It's not just applying to things online; it might mean actually going out to places in person."

Colin also said that she noticed she got many more responses to applications when she included a cover letter with her resume and application.

As students become graduates, and graduates move to take the next step to becoming employees, it's important for them to do as much as possible to stand out as a candidate that will make the best employee in a healthcare organization. It's also important for students and graduates to use the resources that Casa Loma provides through its career services.

Students are encouraged to develop relationships with clinical sites and career services representatives while they are in school and turn those relationships into employment once they graduate.

*"It depends on the work you put into getting a job,"*

*-Patricia Colin, Casa Loma Graduate*



Hawthorne and Anaheim Campuses graduated VN, MIBC, MA, and DMS classes Dec. 21 at the Hawthorne Memorial Center.



# Coding Professionals in Changing Times

Medical Insurance Billing and Coding Students are learning an exciting aspect of the Healthcare Industry during a time when the information they work with is undergoing incredible shifts. First, they are tackling the billing component of healthcare where vast improvements to the digitized way that data is input and shared between medical offices is changing. Second, students are learning billing and coding for patients, doctors, and insurance companies while the entire process of billing and coding is about to come under changes because of the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

These changes in billing within the healthcare industry are going to shift how the students will be sharing data when they are working in doctors' offices. But they still have to master the core, coding function of their position. Every procedure, every diagnosis, every insurance claim has a code, and the students must master where and how to access each individual code in order to share the correct information between medical specialists and insurance companies.

With all of that information sharing, graduates will spend a great deal of

time interfacing with colleagues and clients in order to get the information. They will speak with patients, with doctors, with insurance providers, with government agencies, and with everyone in between. In order to do this, the medical biller has to have patience and interpersonal skills.

"This is taught and learned in the very first module," said Maria Gonzalez, the Medical Billing and Coding instructor. "These are the skills and attributes," Gonzalez said that students will need to not only determine the correct codes based on the diagnosis and procedures, but also to bring the best service to the groups of people they'll work with.

Within the class, the students each have their own stories, personalities, and personal challenges that help determine what their goals are in Medical Billing and Coding.

Brandon Coquia, a student who drives more than 40 miles to and from class, is interested in the business of healthcare, and said he was excited to be learning about the financials.

Irene Camberos, one of the elders of the class, speaks Spanish as her first language, and types at an impressive

65 words per minute in English.

Walter Hudson, another of the elder class members, has navigated the class while also navigating the city in the process of getting his license reinstated. Jamahne Wright has been successfully going through the course while pregnant and holding down a part time job at the Sony store in Century City.

Starr Mickels, who has a quick-witted snappy side to her, spent time a great deal of her childhood in the care of different foster homes and aspires to use her professional career to help other foster children.

Tiana Lewis, the youngest of three girls in her family, brings a centering calm to the class that her classmate, Starr, said brings her "back to earth."

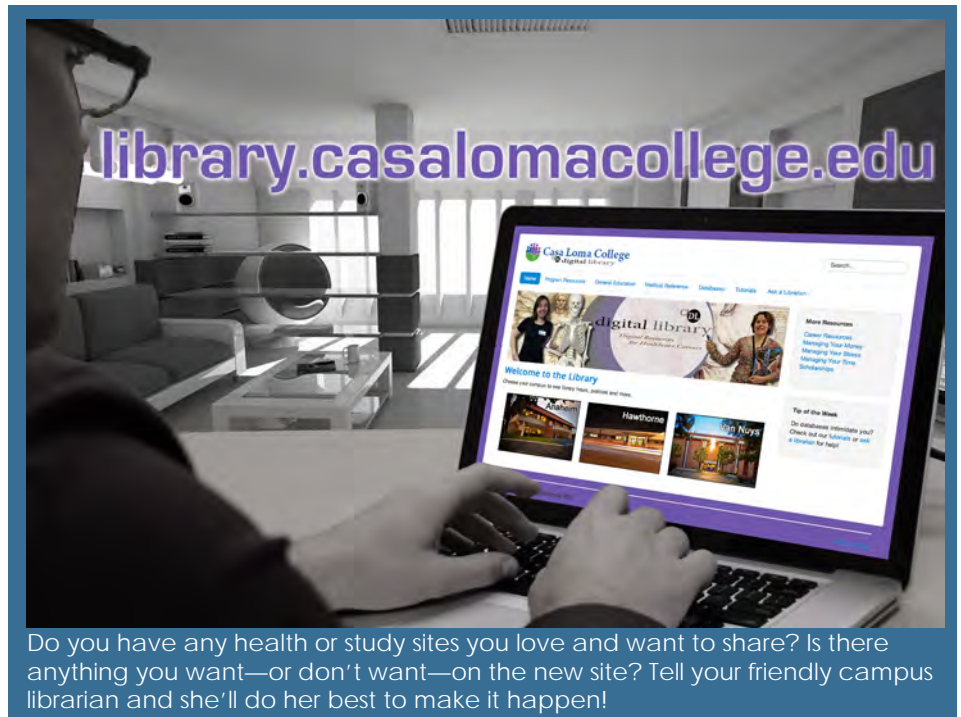
While each student brings a unique perspective and personality to the class, they are all finding ways to make those fit in to their personas of competent medical professionals.



# New Library Website

Out with the old and in with the new. The library website has been revamped to better serve our students. The site will help students more easily find the information. Here are some features to look forward to on the 2013 website:

- Links to sites for anatomy, medical terminology, math, reading, writing, and physics
- Resources for your specific program
- Links to databases
- Tips on studying and test-taking
- Scholarship and career resources
- Tutorials on researching, using the databases, and getting started with specific projects
- A way to contact a librarian with questions.



Do you have any health or study sites you love and want to share? Is there anything you want—or don't want—on the new site? Tell your friendly campus librarian and she'll do her best to make it happen!

## Getting to KNOW



Sponsored by Casa Loma College MRI and DMS Programs at the CLC Anaheim Campus On Saturday, July 13, 2013 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

## Casa Loma College School of Nursing & Allied Health

Please Submit attached registration form by April 12, 2013

Casa Loma College would like to hold annual events to promote continual education in the community of diagnostic imaging, especially in MRI and Sonography. In May, the college will hold its first annual imaging event and workshop. This event will focus on promoting and developing clinical partnerships among the imaging community, academia and students. The goal is to enhance the quality of clinical education through the coordination of activities and sharing of ideas.

The Imaging event will be held on the Casa Loma College Anaheim Campus. A map and specific details will be sent upon receipt of registration.

Please send your registration form to:

Nena Becerra, Manager of Clinical Education in MRI  
Fax: (714) 484-7659 or E-mail: nena.becerra@casalomacollege.edu

If you have any questions, please contact Nena Becerra at (310) 469-6096 or Amy Allen, Director of the MRI Program at (714) 484-6995, Ext 319 or via e-mail at amy.allen@casalomacollege.edu

**Detach the registration form below and fax or e-mail by April 12, 2013.**

### APPLICATION FOR 2013 CASA LOMA COLLEGE IMAGING EVENT

Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact person \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

Casa Loma College

Anaheim  
Hawthorne  
Van Nuys

1.800.270.5052

webapps@casalomacollege.edu  
www.casalomacollege.edu

Casa Loma  
College

School of Nursing and Allied Health

## Got a Story?

Do you have a story or know someone at school with a story that should be shared. Let us know and we'll work to get the story out to all of our communities.

Casa Loma College is committed to keeping you informed and using communications to enhance your educational and professional experiences.

For more information about using Casa Loma College's communication resources to help your education and career, or to give a tip on a potential story, contact:

Joe Roos 818.785.2726 X220 joe.roos@casalomacollege.edu

## Medical Fast fact:

The acid in your stomach is strong enough to dissolve razorblades. It's not recommended that you eat razorblades to put this to the test. But Hydrochloric acid, the type found in your stomach, is not only good at dissolving the pizza you had for dinner; it can also eat through many types of metal.

## Connect with us.



Learn about the latest opportunities and developments at school and in the medical world. Share your journey.



Casa Loma College  
6725 Kester Ave.  
Van Nuys, CA 91405