

Press Clippings 07/22/2019

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There are no U-46 related news stories.

---Daily Herald---07/21/2019

State's first high school veterinary science program to get bigger this fall

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



Burlington-based Central Unit District 301 launched the state's first veterinary program at the high school level last school year. Housed at Central High School, the program is growing in enrollment with students from Elgin Area School District U-46 and Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300 taking classes there this fall.



The state's first veterinary program at the high school level housed at Central High School is growing in enrollment with students from Central Unit District 301, Elgin Area School District U-46 and Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300 taking classes there this fall.

A regional veterinary science program at Central High School near Burlington -- the first of its kind in the state -- will see a surge in enrollment this fall as more Kane County high school districts join.

Burlington-based Central Unit District 301 launched the state's first comprehensive veterinary science program at the high school level last school year to help address a statewide shortage of veterinary assistants. It is being offered as part of a regional career pathways cooperative -- the Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System -- to

member districts: District 301; Elgin Area School District U-46; Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300; and St. Charles Unit District 303. Through the partnership, students from these districts can take courses not offered at their home schools.

In the first year, 112 students from District 301 and U-46 completed the introduction to agriculture and animal science course. This fall, 57 students from that first batch will begin externships at Fox Valley-area veterinary clinics, hospitals and doggy day care centers to gain hands-on experience.

A new group of 110 sophomores from U-46 and District 301 also will be enrolling this fall, along with five students from District 300 who will be taking the introductory and second-year veterinary courses concurrently, said Esther Mongan, District 301 assistant superintendent.

"It's pretty exciting for our students," said Mongan, adding students who are returning for the second year are "really committed."

Eventually, students from St. Charles Unit District 303 are expected to join the veterinary program, officials said.

There is growing interest in the program at U-46, said Kinasha Brown, district director of educational pathways.

"Students believe that the program is academically rigorous," said Brown, adding that students surveyed during the program's first year gave high marks to District 301's veterinary lab facilities and teachers.

District 301 worked with the Illinois State Board of Education to create its veterinary science curriculum and built a state-of-the-art lab at Central.

The three-year program, starting in sophomore year, covers a range of topics, including personal safety and animal handling, animal industry issues, species care and management, microbiology, biosecurity, anatomy and body systems, reproduction and genetics, pharmacology, hospital, lab and surgical prep procedures, laws and ethics, and even office management. Students also must complete 100 hours of nonpaid externship experience starting second semester of junior year with local veterinary clinics, animal shelters or hospitals before they can be certified as veterinary assistants.

"We have partnered with 19 sites throughout the northern Kane County region to allow our students to complete this experience," Brown said.

District 301's program meets entry-level competency standards and guidelines established by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America. After completing it, students can take the national test to become an approved veterinary assistant and earn college credit allowing them to graduate a year earlier.

District 301 also has a partnership with Fox College in Tinley Park guaranteeing program graduates admission into an 18-month veterinary technology program.

"Every student who comes in through this regional pathway program is awarded a \$2,500 scholarship," Brown said.

Other regional career pathway programs offered through the vocational system are precision manufacturing and health care science currently housed at U-46, and welding housed at U-46 and District 300 high schools.

District 301 officials expect to add more pathway programs in coming years, including plant and animal sciences.

"Down the road, we're going to have opportunities for various health occupations pathways and also cyber security," said Todd Stirn, District 301 superintendent. "We're really looking to provide our students with career pathways that can lead to certification that's both regionally and nationally recognized so that it's portable ... and provide a pathway to gainful employment."

U-46 is developing two new tracks in the health care science field -- medical assistance and patient care technician -- that students could register for in the 2020-21 school year with courses beginning the following school year. Brown expects the program will be a huge draw.

"We would be the only district in the region to house such a program," she added.

Brown said among the benefits of taking a regional approach to developing career pathways is increasing student access to high-quality career and technical education programs and sharing financial resources to minimize districts' costs for program implementation. These pathways also are aligned to federal and state initiatives to increase college and career readiness, she added.

"We are truly a best practice model," Brown said. "We are providing a framework. It's a win not only for our district but for the students as well because when you can do this type of systemic development and create access ... you really start to diminish opportunity gaps."

---Daily Herald---07/21/2019

Elgin Elks join with Elgin's First Baptist Church for 'Step It Up' program

Submitted by: Elgin Elks Lodge 737



Step It Up, a ministry of Elgin's First Baptist Church, is collecting shoe donations for its annual program. "Distribution Day" will be Saturday, Aug. 3. *Courtesy of Step It Up*

Elgin Elks Lodge 737 is partnering with Elgin's First Baptist Church in the "Step It Up" program.

The program has given out almost 10,000 pairs of new shoes in the past 11 years. It helps children preschool to 12th grade in Elgin and surrounding communities.

It was started as Rebecca Huguley, director of the Step It Up, was challenged to look around and see the needs in her community. She spoke with a local teacher and members of the First Baptist Church regarding the need for shoes.

The teacher said: "Definitely, there was a need as she saw children wear shoes they had outgrown, hand-me-downs that did not fit, worn-out shoes, etc."

They collected shoes and set them out like a shoe store in the First Baptist Church fellowship hall. They advertised at three local schools but did not know if anyone would show up. That morning, there was a line longer than the church driveway. Every child received a new pair of shoes -- 403 children!

Since then it has grown. The program usually gives out over 1,000 pairs each year.

The church has partnered with the Elgin Elks Lodge 737. Area churches help collect shoes. Businesses donate money. Shoe Carnival in South Elgin gives discounts to the program and also donates socks. Culvers has donated food for the volunteers.

The Elgin police help the children pick out their shoes. The Elgin Fire Department has brought out a fire truck.

Highland Elementary sends teachers and administrators to help.

The committee that works on collection and organization for shoes does so for months before the event. Plus, over 100 people volunteer on distribution day. Some of the volunteers have been involved all 11 years. It has truly become a community event!

This is the Elks fifth year of working with the First Baptist Church. The Elgin Elks are able to purchase shoes with grant money from the Elks National Foundation. The Elks can't just provide shoes but must provide Elks members and helpers to set up and work on distribution day Aug. 3. The Elgin lodge has help from the Illinois State Elks Association, the first vice president and his wife, as well as the district sponsor, many members from the lodge, and several other lodges in the North District. What a great feeling you have on the day of distribution to see the smiles on the children faces.

The Elks National Foundation Community Investment Program has invested 13.7 million in Elks communities across the country through Lodge grants that help Elks meet local needs.

"Distribution Day" will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3. The event will be held at the First Baptist Church, 1735 W. Highland Ave. in Elgin. If a child needs a pair of shoes no questions are asked. Numbers are given out starting at 6 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, for the time slots. Children must be present and with an adult.

Elroy the Elk, the mascot for the Elks Drug Awareness Program, will be on hand.

For information, visit fbcelgin.com/events/step-up or www.facebook.com/firstbstepitup/.

Press Clippings 07/20/2019

There are no U-46 related news stories.

---The Courier-News---07/19/2019

Elgin High grad who worked at NASA to speak at library

Event part of 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 landing

By: Rafael Guerrero



Former NASA CapCom and Elgin High School graduate Hal Getzelman, seen here during a video chat in 2016, will give a presentation Friday at the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin. The event is tied to the 50th anniversary of the lunar landing in 1969.

Hal Getzelman, a former NASA capsule communicator and an **Elgin High School** graduate, will speak at the Gail Borden Public Library on Friday as part of the Elgin library's celebration of the Apollo 11 lunar landing's 50th anniversary.

Getzelman, who was one of the first CapComs appointed by NASA to serve as the contact between Mission Control in Houston and the astronauts in space, will speak about the future of human space flight in his 3:30 p.m. presentation at the library, 270 N. Grove Ave.

He'll also give an overview of the space race in the 1960s and look at the current international efforts to continue human space flight before answering audience questions.

"He's been so generous with his time, and he's from Elgin, which makes it particularly meaningful," said Denise Raleigh, the library's public relations and development division chief. Over the years, Getzelman has made several appearances at the library and via video from Houston.

Getzelman graduated from Elgin High School in 1972 and the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1976, completing a bachelor's degree in engineering before becoming an Air Force pilot

and air instructor, according to his biography on the School District U46 website . After finishing his master's in space operations from the Air Force Institute of Technology, he was assigned to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, where he instructed astronauts on shuttle systems and led the Air Force Training Division.

He retired from the Air Force in 1997 but continued to work with space center and eventually was named a lead CapCom and the chief engineer for the International Space Station, his biography said. Getzelman was the lead CapCom for Expedition 12 in 2005-06 and 20 in 2009 and for shuttle missions 120 and 130 in 2007 and 2010, respectively.

While attending high school in Elgin, Getzelman spent time at the district's planetarium and observatory and studied under former observatory director Don Tuttle, who helped him build his first telescope.

"To see how he became part of the space program is a wonderful story," Raleigh said. "It can really connect local kids with the space race."

The library is holding other events Saturday to commemorate the space landing. Registration is open for "Family Music: ScibbleMonster Rock It! Science," during which families can dance, sing and enjoy music from the musical duo ScibbleMonster from 11 a.m. to noon. A "moon landing party," featuring crafts, learning stations and games, will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday. Film footage from the 1969 lunar landing will be shown. Both events will be at the library's Meadows Community Rooms.

On display will be a replica footprint from astronaut Neil Armstrong's first step on the moon's surface. Acme Design Inc., of Elgin, created the replica library display, Raleigh said.