



**Boscola Bulletin**  
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 LISA BOSCOLA 18TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

**NORTHAMPTON**  
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Advance Your Healthcare Career with NCC's Spring Programs**

By NCC

BETHLEHEM, PA -Northampton Community College (NCC) is excited to offer a variety of programs this spring for anyone looking to start or advance their career in healthcare.

The first is NCC's comprehensive Phlebotomy Technician course in the fundamentals and practice of phlebotomy (blood specimen collection) to prepare students for the national certification exam. This course will start February 15 at the NCC Fowler Family Southside Center in Bethlehem, and entry requirements are due prior to the start date. Lecture topics include venipuncture, capillary collection, safety, medical terminology, orientation to the clinical laboratory and health care setting, specimen handling and processing, and reviewing vital signs. Students will spend 120 hours practicing blood collection techniques under supervision. The student must then complete 100 successful venipunctures in a minimum of 80 hours at a clinical site. Upon completion of the course, students are eligible to sit for national certification examinations and may seek employment as phlebotomists.

Next are free virtual information sessions to learn more about becoming a Community Health Worker (CHW) on February 20 and March 7. As a CHW, you will help individuals overcome barriers to care by linking them to their local community resources. NCC's accredited course is geared towards participants who want to work in community-based or inpatient settings, and topics include the role of the community health worker, ethics and professional skills, teamwork and communication, documentation and assessment procedures, chronic disease overview, accessibility to healthcare services, care coordination and system navigation. Join NCC for a free fact-finding information session to learn about the program, its career potential and how to get started.

Another great option is NCC's Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) training program starting March 6 which prepares participants with the skills needed to take the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) Competency Examination in as little as four weeks. The program includes classroom instruction, skills laboratory, and clinical experience in local nursing facilities. As a CNA, you can work in a long-term care facility, hospital or other healthcare setting – an excellent way to start your career in healthcare. Entry requirements are due by February 14, and mandatory orientation will be held on February 28.

Finally, NCC's Virtual Pharmacy Technician Training and Exam Preparation program starting March 12 prepares students for the Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) certification Exam. Those who pass the Exam for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians (ExCPT) or Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE) are granted the title of Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT). The ExCPT Exam is offered through the National Health Career Association (NHA) and is NCCA approved. Exam fee is not included in the tuition. This online program is excellent for those seeking an entry-level position in a retail pharmacy setting or those working in the field who would like to expand their employment opportunities.

To learn more and register for any program, please visit [northampton.edu/healthcare](http://northampton.edu/healthcare). For questions, please email [healthcare@northampton.edu](mailto:healthcare@northampton.edu) or call 610-332-6585.

**PA Navigate: A New Online Tool to Better Connect Pennsylvanians with Food, Housing, Childcare and More**

PA Navigate's primary goal is to boost communication between health care and social services to improve follow-through on referrals, as well as to act as a support finder for citizens.

PA Navigate, an online tool that connects Pennsylvanians with community-based organizations, county and state agencies, and healthcare providers, is now LIVE! This resource provides referrals to community resources that helps our residents meet their most basic needs like food, shelter, transportation, and more. PA Navigate also allows individuals to refer themselves for services and facilitates greater connection and communication between healthcare providers and organizations that serve shared populations.

Not one provider or community-based organization can help someone fully address all their needs - PA Navigate will help by making it easier for health and service providers to coordinate and collaborate by providing a better quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.

A person's overall health and wellness is influenced by far more than just their physical health. Socioeconomic, environmental, and behavioral factors shape our present and long-term health outcomes. The National Academy of Medicine estimates that social determinants of health like income, access to essential resources, education and employment, social supports, and physical environment contribute up to 90 percent of health outcomes. Despite this, health care providers and social service and community-based organizations that can help people experiencing barriers to essential needs and economic stability are not always closely linked.

PA Navigate bridges these systems through a shared platform where health care providers and social services organizations can track client referrals and better understand and assist with a client's individual needs, helping them access services and supports. The system will also allow health care and service providers to assess an individual's needs during a physician's office or emergency department visit, when receiving case management services, or when seeking assistance from a community-based organization, among others.

NOTE: If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, chat with them online via their website, or text HOME to 741741 (multiple languages available). If this is an emergency, call 911.

One of the most beneficial aspects of this too is that in addition to providing information, it will also gather data that can help the Commonwealth better understand health and social services needs of our residents by identifying service gaps or opportunities for better support across the state. By looking at critical social determinants of health, including employment, child care, transportation, food security, access to health care, and housing stability, Commonwealth agencies and partners at the county and local level can help Pennsylvanians achieve better long-term health outcomes.

PA Navigate is a collaborative effort among health information organizations (HIOs) and brings together multiple state agencies, counties, local non-profits and community organizations, health care entities, and social services providers. It is refreshing to know that simply by entering their zip code, our residents can access the help they need – all in one place.

For more information and to find resources in your community, visit [pa-navigate.org](http://pa-navigate.org) or contact my office at 610-868-8667.

**FREE "Chili Mac 'n Cheese" Dinner**  
 The East Bangor United Methodist Community Church welcomes you to a FREE "Chili Mac 'n Cheese" Dinner on Sunday, Feb. 4th, from 4:00-4:30 p.m. This is TAKE-OUT ONLY. The church is located at 136 W. Central Ave. (Rt. 512), East Bangor, PA Questions? call 610-588-4453 or visit [www.ebumc.org](http://www.ebumc.org).