

**TO MEDIA:
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ELECTRONIC PHOTO AVAILABLE (rjennings@excelsahealth.org)

CUTLINE: Participating in an ultrasound demonstration are left to right, Dr. Kathleen Malloy, dean, Health Professions, WCCC; Linda Decker, manager, Imaging Services, Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital; Laura Locke, Diagnostic Medical Sonography program director, WCCC, (conducting scan) and Amy Dunegan, lead Ultrasound technologist, Westmoreland (on bed)

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FINDS NEW USE HERE AND ABROAD

GREENSBURG, PA, June 15, 2010 ... Recent donations of older model patient care tools and technology are helping Excelsa Health live out its mission in local classrooms and global clinics.

Sonography Gift Helps WCCC Launch New Program

A new Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Westmoreland County Community College received a jumpstart from Excelsa Health with the donation of an ultrasound machine. The program began in January with 20 students culled from 70 applicants following a competitive admissions process. The two-year associate in applied science degree program prepares graduates to seek positions as

sonographers in a variety of health care settings, including regional medical centers, hospitals, diagnostic centers and doctor's offices.

Program graduates are eligible to apply to take the American Registry in Diagnostic Medical Sonography Exam. Currently, 17 students are enrolled in the program, with another 61 students preparing for the next class start in January 2011. Ultrasound equipment donated by Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital provides additional hands-on learning experiences for WCCC students.

The gift is another example of Excelsa's community connectivity. Laura Locke, program director, was once a full-time ultrasound technologist at Excelsa Latrobe Hospital. Later she began teaching part time in the Ultrasound program at Community College of Allegheny College. Excelsa serves as a clinical site for CCAC Ultrasound students, many of whom find employment with the health system upon program completion. Locke moved to WCCC to help launch the new program and continues to work at Latrobe Hospital on a casual basis to maintain her scanning skills. Locke and Linda Decker, manager of Imaging Service at Excelsa Westmoreland, have a long association - Decker is also an ultrasound tech and helped to facilitate the donation, which is valued at \$150,000 if purchased new.

A Global Link To Patient Care

Warehoused medical equipment no longer useful to Excelsa Health is finding its way around the world through a new relationship with a Pittsburgh international aid organization.

Global Links provides medical relief and promotes environmental stewardship to improve health in developing countries. Collaborating with U.S. health care facilities, Global Links redirects still useful materials away from landfills to public health improvement efforts in targeted countries.

Earlier this year, Angela Garcia, Global Links deputy director, and her logistics crew recovered cribs, wheelchairs, delivery beds, exam tables and other items from Excelsa's warehouse in Mount Pleasant. These basic items, while no longer needed by Excelsa, will make a difference in how care is provided and the dignity of the patients in places like Guatemala, Bolivia, Nicaragua and other countries where a lack of equipment is common.