



Award Biography

The Outstanding CTE Program embodies all the characteristics of high-quality CTE. Join me in celebrating Cochise Technology District's Nursing Services Program and Lila Tenniswood earning this distinction for 2024.

In the past two years, 93.5% of program students passed the state Technical Skills Assessment, 100% earned their Direct Care Worker Levels I and II certifications, and 55% went on to test for and pass their Certified Nursing Assistant certification.

Lila Tenniswood completed an externship at a Tucson hospital and was thinking of expanding student opportunities. Could we develop a second track that would be open to all students? A Patient Care Technician (PCT) class would be mostly within the school day for more rural students and be open to students of all backgrounds and languages. The partnership benefits students, the hospitals, and the communities. Lila teaches the Patient Care Tech class with support from TMC trainers. Students log on virtually from Benson and Tombstone with her Willcox students. Aritza Mendez (Benson) and Jennifer Thomas (Tombstone) provide support from their locations. All three teach the first year of the class, Medical Professions. It's a team effort to make the Patient Care Tech option of our Nursing Services Program a success.

One hundred percent of second-year students are HOSA members. All three program teachers have active chapters that provide leadership opportunities for their healthcare students. All three school chapters host, organize, and supervise at least two blood drives yearly. In recent years, two schools placed in the top five in the state for registrations to give the gift of life through the AZ HOSA High School Heroes/Donate Life America project. Students researched their topics, worked with local industry experts, developed a presentation with possible solutions and recommendations, and presented to a hospital and business professionals' panel.