

## **Triton College Certified Medical Assistant Students are Strengthening Healthcare in Melrose Park**

The partnership between Woodlake Occupational Health and Triton College's Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) Program has been meeting the occupational healthcare needs of Melrose Park businesses and surrounding communities for the last four years.

"Many Triton College CMA students complete their 160 practicum hours at Woodlake Occupational Health," said Sandy Ciancio, director of Occupational Health at Woodlake.

After completing their practicum and passing the CMA exam, students are often hired by Woodlake Occupational Health based on their strong preparation they receive through Triton's program, said Ciancio.

"Dr. Isam Nasr and I are on Triton College's Medical Assistant Program Advisory Committee," Ciancio said. "We provide feedback for Triton's program, guiding them on different subject matters. Triton students always impress us."

Ciancio noted that she advises Dean John Cody from an employer's perspective, highlighting both the program's strengths and areas of opportunity. The goal is to ensure continuous improvement and prepare students for long-term career success.

Today, all CMA staff members at Woodlake are Triton College graduates.

Melrose Park Mayor Ron Serpico also praised the partnership, noting that many of the students are Melrose Park residents. Triton College students are equipped with the tools they need to be successful.

"Triton College students are always eager to learn and have a positive attitude," said Ciancio. "The skill set that they acquire at Triton provides them with a solid foundation to begin their career."

To learn more about Triton's CMA program, visit [triton.edu/about/dept/academic/school-of-health-careers-public-service-programs/certified-medical-assistant/](https://triton.edu/about/dept/academic/school-of-health-careers-public-service-programs/certified-medical-assistant/).