

July 9, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the AZ State Board of Pharmacy Board Room (1616 W. Adams, Phx., AZ).

Members in attendance:

- Tiffany Poetsch, AZ State Board of Pharmacy
- Debbie Holland, West-MEC Program Quality Manager
- Speranta Klees, West-MEC Counselor Liaison
- Katie Mehin, West-MEC Career Liaison

Meeting began with an orientation on “What is a JTED” and “What is West-MEC”. West-MEC’s new Northeast Campus was highlighted and included a discussion on future health programs under consideration. Discussion regarding offering **Medical Imaging and Surgical Technician** programs was addressed; issues included age restrictions, externship challenges and cost. Future discussion to continue.

Tiffany shared the difference between a Pharmacy Technician and a Pharmacy Technician Trainee. Retail center pharmacies (CVS, Safeway, Fry’s) offer internal training programs on-site, which allows a student to work under a Pharmacy Technician Trainee license for 2 years. After two years, the applicant must pass the Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination (PTCE) and earn their Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) license to continue employment. Tiffany clarified that in Arizona the name for the program should be **Pharmacy Technician** as in the license: Pharmacy Assistant is a name used in other states.

Tiffany explained PTCE is a nationally accredited certification exam for pharmacy technicians. Exam is \$125 and follows the “3-strikes, you’re out” policy. Applicants must pass the exam to earn a CPhT license. The exam is offered online and consists of 90 multiple choice questions. Test candidates must be 18 years old and have earned a high school diploma. Licenses are not transferrable to other states. Formal training courses are not required to take the PTCE exam.

A detailed discussion followed regarding West-MEC’s Pharmacy Technician program and industry recommendations. Tiffany recommended West-MEC incorporate high school credits as prerequisites to acceptance into the program. Her recommendation included a C or better in Algebra, Geometry, and a Biological Science. Tiffany also recommended the curriculum to include a study of a Compounding Pharmacy and Nuclear Pharmacy. Externship would not be allowed due to the age of the students. She suggested contacting independent pharmacies which might allow shadowing opportunities. Tiffany recommended after West-MEC’s 2-year program; students take the PTCE exam and earn the CPhT license.

Tiffany recommended purchasing the Michigan Pharmacy Association PTCEB Study Guide for \$85 as an instructor resource.

Tiffany indicated she will provide West-MEC additional names and contact information to add to our Health Advisory Council.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 21st, 2:00 p.m. at the West-MEC Northeast Campus.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.