

NWCCF 2016 Instructor of the Year



Gene Rathbun, a Medical Assistant instructor with Pima Medical Institute, Seattle, has been awarded the 2016 Instructor of the Year. He was honored at the 2016 Annual Conference, shown here with Gena Wikstrom, NWCCF Executive Director.

Gene joined Pima Medical Institute in 2010 as a Medical Assistant Instructor. Since that time Gene has grown as an instructor, garnering great respect from his peers and equally, if not more importantly, great respect from his students.

Gene has developed creative ways to reach multiple learning styles in the same classroom. He was the first in the Pima group to video his skill demonstrations and upload them into a private You Tube account so students can watch over and over and ensure their knowledge and technique is firm. He was the first to implement a mock courtroom to teach Law and Ethics that involves the students in various defense positions – a practice that requires students to research and prepare, and ultimately learn from each other since an understanding of terminology and policy is a must as a professional.

Gene's student retention numbers are exceptional, an indicator of student satisfaction. He continues to support his students on externship and shares in the success of their accomplishments. The number of student comments about Gene were not only impressive but heartwarming, a true testament to his commitment as an instructor.

For the last number of years Gene has brought medical assisting students to the state capitol in Olympia, where Pima students become part of the great student ambassadorship On Hill Day to legislators, legislative aides and the general public where they demonstrate what they're learning, sometimes shocking themselves and others with the number of high blood pressure readings. As Gene has pointed out: Note to students: this is the real world.

Gene received his Medical Assisting training at Apollo College, now Carrington College. He has since earned an associate degree and is very near completion of a bachelor degree, all achieved while working full time at Pima – another great example for his students.