

## MCC offers new veterinary assistant program

By Journal Inquirer Staff

MANCHESTER — For people looking to get into the growing world of veterinary healthcare, Manchester Community College has a new credit-free program, Veterinary Assistant Certificate Test Prep. Classes for Part 1 of the program begin Tuesday, Feb. 28, and run through May 12.

The program includes clinical work at the Bolton Veterinary Hospital Well Care Clinic at 663 Boston Turnpike, Bolton, and will be taught by Sonja Gottler, DVM, a partner at the veterinary hospital and clinic, and Erin Jackson, a certified veterinary technician, as well as other hospital staff members.

The 80-hour Part 1 of the program will start students on their way to an entry level position in the field and will cover care for small animals, how to recognize signs of illness and disease, handling and restraint of pets, exam room procedures, pharmacy and lab skills, radiology and diagnostic imaging, surgical tasks, legal issues, veterinary computer programs, facility maintenance, and front office procedures.

The certification, while not currently required by the state of Connecticut, is recommended by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) as a credential for showing that students come out of the program with actual hands-on experience.

Students who complete the 160-hour MCC program — 80 hours in Part 1 in the spring, and 80 hours in Part 2, which will be offered by the college in the Fall 2012 term — will then be eligible to sit for the NAVTA Veterinary Assistant

Certification exam.

The experience will provide students with the kind of real-world experience they normally would only get from a formal internship, Jackson said.

For more information, call Diane Mitchell at 860-512-2826 or email: dmitchell@mcc.commnet.edu

### Other upcoming credit-free programs:

#### USING YOUR DIGITAL SLR

Course number 11817 2 Fridays, 1/20-1/27, 6-9 p.m. MCC Bldg. AST D211 Fee: \$99. This class will focus on the specifics of using a digital SLR and will answer many of the questions on how to get the most out of your new camera. Topics will include choosing the proper file format and resolution; compression; lenses; white balance; color space; exposure compensation; saturation; and contrast controls. Classroom presentations and hands-on experience will help you to learn about your camera and the use of the RAW file format. The class will also use Adobe Photoshop to demonstrate downloading images and processing RAW file formats, as well as learning essential tools for processing digital photographs. Please bring your own Digital SLR to class.

#### NOON INSTITUTE - YOUR AMAZING, AGING, FLEXIBLE BRAIN

Course number 12076 1 Friday, 1/20, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. MCC Bldg. AST E202 Fee: \$5. We will put on our thinking caps to review what's known about the human brain, and we'll look at changes in the brain with aging and stress and how those changes can affect behavior and attitude. We will also look at strategies to keep our brains healthy, brain exercises, recommendations for the most effective strategies to stay sharp. We will briefly discuss recent research, changing research tools, anatomy, Alzheimer's disease and lifestyle choices.

#### PERSONAL TRAINER NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

Course number 11804 9 Saturdays, 1/21-3/24 (does not meet 2/18), 10 a.m.-3 p.m. MCC Bldg. GPA GP142 (10 a.m.-

noon, classroom) & Lowe L154 (1-3 p.m., Fitness Center; exam session in Fitness Center on 3/24 from 12:30-4:30 p.m.) Fee: \$640. The World Instructor Training School's (WITS) certification course is taught at colleges across the country. This challenging course is composed of 16 hours of lecture and 16 hours of practical training. The National Exam is held on the final week. Students are allowed to miss one class only and still be able to sit for the exam. Lecture topics include anatomy, exercise physiology, nutrition, and health screening. A subsequent 30-hour internship (not included with this course) and proof of CPR/AED training will prepare you to work successfully in the fitness field. To order the required textbook, \* Fitness Professional's Handbook, 5th edition, for approximately \$82, please call (888) 330-9487, or visit [www.wit.edu](http://www.wit.edu). The textbook should be purchased in advance and reviewed prior to the first class. For the Fitness Center sessions, students must wear appropriate work-out clothes and non-marking athletic shoes. Students should plan for a one-hour lunch break during the Saturday sessions. Please bring a combination lock in order to store your personal belongings during these work-out sessions. \*Please note: This course requires a high degree of commitment to successfully complete.

#### JEWELRY MAKING FOR BEGINNERS

Course number 12065 4 Saturdays, 1/21-2/11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. MCC Bldg. AST D132 Fee: \$120. In this fun, hands-on course for both beginning and return students, learn the basics of how to saw, file, texture, and solder metals into jewelry. As part of a series of courses, with each focusing on a particular technique and project, this course will teach the technique of "sweat soldering," ideal for any level of student who wants to master soldering, and especially repeat students who want to hone their skills. Each student will make a pendant. Materials fee: approximately \$20 or more, depending on market value, in addition to a tool list, which will be sent prior to class. Materials fee and supply list will be discussed at the first class. Participants must be at least 14 years of age.

