

medical assistants program tour

Medical Assistants Gain Insight Through BloodCenter Tour

A group of medical assistant students recently enjoyed an enlightening tour of BloodCenter of Wisconsin on December 19. The group included 24 students participating in a program funded by the Private Industry Council of Milwaukee.

"It was extremely exciting and something many of the students had never seen before," said Janan Najeeb, director of the medical assistant program of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. "They were thrilled with the tour they received," she said. Their tour included the donor room and Hospital Services.

Most of the students are members of the local Muslim community and typically have already established a medical background in another country, but are still developing their English skills after moving to the U.S. Through the Islamic Society of Milwaukee and the PIC, students can enroll in a six-month program that allows them to learn the techniques and terminology that they need to return to the medical field and fully utilize their valuable experience. The need is growing for these types of medical personnel because of an aging population and increasing numbers of immigrants, according to Najeeb.

"They're so eager to learn and rejoin their field," Najeeb said. "Because of



A group of 24 medical assistant students enjoyed an inside look at the BloodCenter as they toured our facilities December 19.

their experience and enthusiasm, they're ideal for this program and for our instructors to teach." Instructors include experienced professionals who come from various local institutions, as well as interpreters who provide linguistic assistance.

"Within Milwaukee's Muslim community, there are many people in the medical profession," Najeeb said. "So, many of these students are able to get quality on-the-job training by working alongside these established professionals."

After completing the program, most of the students find jobs locally as

medical assistants or receive more on-the-job training at local facilities. Their tour of BloodCenter was an eye-opening supplement to their education, and it demonstrated a great way in which BloodCenter contributes to the knowledge base of our local medical community.

Thanks to all BloodCenter staff who took extra time with those students that day!