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Clinical Nutrition Service

College Field Preceptor Contracted Partnership

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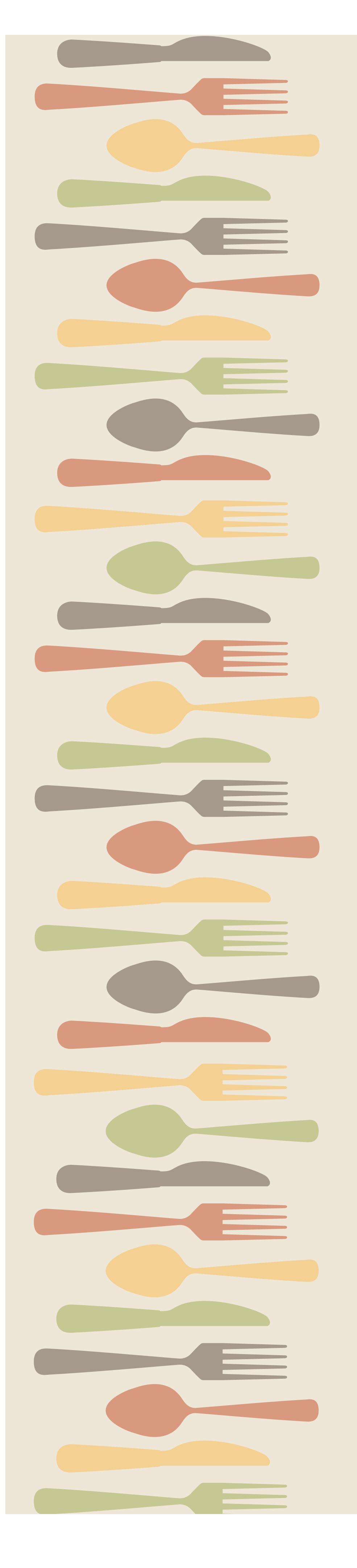
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College Field Preceptor Contracted Partnership Kimberly Procaccino, RD, LDN, MBA, Susan Gargano, RD, LDN, Melissa Faura, RD, LDN, Ann Flickinger, MS, RD, LDN

Background

Facility preceptors face patient care workload demand challenges striving to provide a dietetic intern with a comprehensive learning experience. Cedar Crest College (CCC) requires quality acute care internship placements to meet the volume of dietetic interns accepted.

Objective

The goal was to create a contract to fund a dedicated field preceptor position to support a 6 week rotation for five CCC interns while still meeting patient care standard in hospital facilities.



Method

Sodexo legal built a field preceptor contract based on negotiations between the Sodexo Nutrition Director at Lehigh Valley Health Network and CCC Dietetic Internship Director. A multi-skilled dietitian, one experienced in training interns, accepted the field preceptor position to lead the initiative. The medical nutrition therapy rotations were developed to ensure compliance with the ACEND Core Competencies and included shadowing dietitians in specialty areas, shadowing health care providers, viewing procedures and tray and menu evaluations.





Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pa.

Results

The value of this program was well recognized by intern, field preceptor, and internship director testimony. The budget for the following year was tripled to include two classes of five interns over 18 weeks.

Conclusion

This partnership has demonstrated to be a sustainable model for preparing our future dietetic professionals and promoting the highest quality care to patients at Lehigh Valley Health Network.

