

American Senior Communities employees honored



Juan Vicente, LPN

Eighteen American Senior Communities employees were honored this week after completing nursing programs with all costs paid through a program operated by American Senior Communities.

The class of graduates was the largest since the inception of the program. The graduates work at nursing centers operated by American Senior Communities and were participants in the Opportunities to Nursing Excellence program, which paid for all costs of their studies at various accredited colleges to become licensed practical nurses or registered nurses.

One of the graduates is a nurse at a Washington senior health community operated by American Senior Communities. Juan Vicente finished coursework to become a LPN at Prairie Village Nursing and Rehabilitation.

Since its inception, the Opportunities to Nursing Excellence program has helped more than 100 men and women become registered nurses and licensed practical nurses. Each year, most of the students graduate with honors and return to work for ASC communities, and there is a very high rate of retention with these employees.

During the honors program this week, ASC CEO Donna Kelsey said the impact of the program has been significant statewide. “We are the only company who does this,” she said.

ASC locations across the state nominate staff members for the program. Many are nominated while they are working as certified nursing assistants. Selected candidates are offered the opportunity to attend an accredited school of their choice, with all costs fully paid by ASC. They are also given a 30-hour work schedule while being paid for 40 hours, allowing additional time for classes and study without being penalized financially. This unique program also provides financial assistance for childcare, alleviating another common stress point for adults returning to school.