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A HEALTHY START FOR NEW WEST COAST PROGRAMME

Tai Poutini Polytechnic's new Certificate in 'Pre Health Science' is off to a healthy start, with the programme brimming with students seeking a career in the health industry.

"The programme was full long before it started and we already have a number of confirmed enrolments for next year," says programme coordinator Maureen Simpson.

"We kept a list of hopefuls in case anyone pulled out in the first fortnight, but nobody did. Everybody is very enthusiastic and excited by the programme."

The 18 week programme is run in conjunction with Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT) and provides students with "a clear pathway" for future learning in the health sector. This is the first time the prerequisite programme has been run on the West Coast, and most of the students enrolled this year have already put their names down to study nursing, midwifery or veterinary nursing next year.

"Our programme is giving them the basic skills they need to be accepted onto these programmes," says Simpson.

Comprising eight different subjects, including Introduction to Chemistry, Cells, Tissues and Biology, and six other related academic studies, the Certificate in Pre-Health Science is a mix of classroom and on-line study. "This offers flexibility to people who have other commitments such as family," says Simpson. "It also makes it accessible to people throughout the West Coast.

"We even have someone from Whataroa on the programme this year, which is a two hour drive away."

Simpson says it's an all-female intake this time around, with a real mix of ages. "We have school leavers as well as more mature women who are looking to return to the workforce after having their family.

“They all seem to have a very clear picture of their future career path.”

The programme will be run once every six months, with intakes in February and July each year. The next intake in February 2010 is open for enrolments now.

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About Tai Poutini Polytechnic:

Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP) offers a range of exciting programmes including outdoor education, ski patrol, ecotourism, jade and hard stone carving, professional chef and civil construction. Tai Poutini Polytechnic has campuses in Auckland, Cambridge, Christchurch, Wanaka, Invercargill, Westport, Greymouth, Reefton and Hokitika. In 2009 TPP offers programmes at Greymouth, Reefton, Westport and Hokitika Campuses with no tuition fees* (* conditions apply).