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Deanna Theodore, admissions representative at National College, left, gives a tour of a surgical tech room to Tracey Campbell of Hubbard. The new college, which offers diplomas and associate degrees in several fields, opened its doors to students this fall on Belmont Avenue in Liberty.

National College holds open house in Liberty

By JENNIFER KOVACS
Tribune Chronicle

LIBERTY — Community members as well as prospective students were welcomed Tuesday to tour the new branch of National College that opened here this fall.

An open house was held for two hours at the location on Belmont Avenue, where a wide variety of two-year associate's degrees are offered as well as one-year diplomas.

Today what is known as the Youngstown campus has more than 160 students enrolled, exceeding what admissions representative Deanna Theodore had anticipated.

Enrollment has increased since the school opened at rates unprecedented in National College's history, Theodore added. And another

94 students are expected when the winter term begins Dec. 3.

Theodore credited the popularity to a good fit with the community.

"Some people need a two-year education," Theodore said.

Tracey Campbell, 17, of Hubbard, was taking a stroll through campus during Tuesday's open house, curious about course work in information technology.

"I'm interested in starting a career," she said.

Hoping that National College may be a viable option to pursue that, and one that's close to home, Campbell said she has aspirations of one day being a computer programmer or even a Web site designer.

"I just always liked computers," she said.

With just 24 seats in each of its classrooms, National College aims to give hands-on, practical training in what are expected to be high-growth career fields through programs in business, computers and health care.

Also offering terms starting at various times during the year and classes held during day and evening hours, Community Resource Coordinator Michael Lyons said the school strives to allow students to earn degrees in a short amount of time and with little debt.

"Our goal is to get you in, get you a degree and get you working again," he said.

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