



Goodwin College Hosts Health Fair, Successful Bone Marrow Drive

Health screenings, acupuncture, and everything in between were on display at Goodwin College's Community Health and Wellness Day on Wednesday, September 30.

A highlight of the health fair was a successful bone marrow donor screening, organized by the College's Alumni Leadership Committee and led by Merilee DeJohn, an alumnus and member of the Goodwin College Board of Trustees. In all, several dozen potential donors were screened and entered into the National Marrow Registry.

"The turnout far exceeded the expectations of the Marrow Registry," said Chris Mulcahy, a recruiter for the National Marrow Donor Program. Mulcahy added that the turnout at Goodwin College surpassed what he had seen at much larger colleges and universities.

Goodwin's Director of Alumni Relations, Guy LaBella, said the success of the donor drive was due to the hard work of DeJohn and the efforts of dedicated alumni and student volunteers, as well as staff.

"This drive will truly help make a difference in the lives of others," LaBella said.

In all, several hundred guests attended the day's events, which started with a brief ceremony emceed by Fox 61's Jeff Valin. The ceremony featured event chair Debra Rajaniemi and guest speaker Dr. Maria Ellis, who is a physician at Woodland Women's Health Associates and is also a Goodwin College trustee. Performer Jerilyn Rae concluded the ceremony with an upbeat song.

Over 25 local health, wellness, "green," and alternative medicine companies and organizations gave out information and conducted free demonstrations throughout the day, and students and faculty from Goodwin College performed free health screenings. Guests also had the opportunity to participate in a yoga class.

Due to the strong response from the community, college organizers plan to hold another health and wellness day in the future.