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**Practical Nursing program receives donation of state-of-the-art needle disposal unit by local manufacturer, Medical Engineering Development Solutions, Inc.**

*Safety, sustainability and savings make sharpsPRO unit revolutionary*

Denver - - The Emily Griffith Technical College of Health Sciences is the proud recipient of a “game changer for the management of medical waste,” as it was described by Vice-President, Tim Coressel of Medical Engineering Development Solutions, Inc.

The safety-driven unit, sharpsPRO, was designed and manufactured in Northglenn, Colorado after three years of extensive research and design to develop a safe, efficient and environmentally conscious way to dispose of and destroy syringes. The EGTC teaching faculty and nursing students have been asked to evaluate the device to help the designers refine the protocol for handling the waste before it is made widely available for hospitals, universities, dental offices and veterinarians. The sharpsPRO utilizes a metal storage canister called the sharpsCAN which has received clearance by the Federal Drug Administration.

The small, 11 lb. metal box is designed for a table top. The unit consumes very little power in order to heat the storage canister, with capacity for 1,500 needles, to 390 degrees for 75 minutes. This temperature significantly exceeds the requirements to sterilize and nullify the toxins of a used syringe. A secure digital card logs all activity, providing a manifest of sterilization that provides complete cradle-to-grave tracking and would be useful for audits.

“We are thrilled to test such cutting-edge technology with our students,” said Kathy Kail, RN, Director of the EGTC Nursing Program. “I believe this can be the most effective disposal system in the not-too-distant future. It is valuable to introduce it to students now so when they are in larger medical facilities, they will be familiar with it.”

Purchase of the sharpsPRO will eliminate the costly fees required by the current disposal method of Sharp’s Containers, a plastic red box. Given the efficiency of the new technology, users of sharpsPRO will accumulate carbon credits and reduce their previously significant carbon footprint, the impact resulting from the necessary transportation and incineration of used syringes. The Sharp’s Container requires users to pay for pick up transportation costs which can run up to \$500/month or more depending on their location. In less than two years, purchasers of sharpsPRO will cover their costs and be proud stewards of a cleaner environment.

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**Emily Griffith Technical College** provides knowledge, skills and values that enable students to compete successfully in the workforce and be self-sufficient citizens and lifelong learners. The school, founded by Emily Griffith “for all who wish to learn” in 1916, serves as the premier college of excellence in the delivery of career and technical education, offering nearly 50 certificate programs and 14 trade apprenticeships. It has annual enrollment of approximately 8,000 students and has assisted over 1.6 million students attain the skills necessary for initial employment, career advancement and further education. For more information about the technical college, visit [EmilyGriffith.edu](http://EmilyGriffith.edu)