Medical Careers Pathway Program
Buffalo, New York

Program Model: Grades 9 – 12
Industry Focus: Health Care

Overview of the Medical Careers Pathway YCC Program

The Medical Careers Pathway program includes Medical Assisting, Health Information Technology, and Environmental Facilities Management and is housed at the Math Science Technology (MST) Preparatory High School adjacent to one of the largest hospitals in Western New York.

Through a governor sponsored workforce initiative, the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC) has built up a world-class medical campus known for its clinical care, research, and education that is furthering the economic growth, igniting urban revitalization, and helping to build a strong and thriving community for our students and their families.

Our program starts at Grade Nine with introductory courses to expose students to the medical field. As the students progress through the four-year program, they learn the advanced skills necessary to make them employable in the medical field. They earn college credit, acquire industry credentials, and take part in work experiences that give them an advantage when they enter the Western New York job market.

Program Highlight

Our major accomplishment has been in providing students with work experience and internship opportunities to expose them to careers in the healthcare field. Students have completed internships at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the Jacobs Institute, Schofield Healthcare, Garden Gate Nursing Home, the Birthing Center of Buffalo, and the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. They have toured Mercy Flight Headquarters, Upstate New York Transplant Services, Buffalo City Morgue, and several local college and university campuses to learn about educational programs offered in the industry.

Guest speakers from the University of Buffalo Dental School, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, and Junior Achievement of Western New York have worked with students to engage in career exploration. Lastly, students are certified in CPR and First Aid/Automated External Defibrillators through the McGuire Group in 10th grade and recertified in 12th grade before graduating high school.
Success Story

Our employer partnership with the Jacobs Institute has made a major contribution to the successful outcome of our program. Each summer, two students participate in paid internships, conducting research and presenting a TED talk-style lecture to a panel of medical professionals. These two students then return to the Jacobs Institute throughout the school year to assist in facilitating eight work experience visits for other YCC students at MST High School.

The Jacobs Institute has also been integral in making connections for the Supervisor and Work-Based Learning Coordinator to other medical professionals on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and in helping facilitate even more learning opportunities for students.

Community Impact

YCC has allowed students to work in paid internships in the healthcare field that otherwise would not be available to the students in our community. Through these opportunities, they have:

- been exposed to a professional work environment;
- obtained work readiness skills;
- and explored their interests in the medical field.

This is especially important for MST students at this point in time because of the increasing availability of healthcare related jobs in Buffalo due to the expansion of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

Additionally, our students come from highly diverse, low-income backgrounds, and they would not have had the opportunities and exposure to this field if it were not for the Youth CareerConnect grant.

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