

Hands-on medical experience offered to CHHS students

Chino Hills High students interested in medical careers can get real-life experience through an internship program offered at Chino Valley Medical Center, Priceless Pets animal rescue, and other health-related facilities in the area.

The internship program began seven years ago through an agreement between Dr. James M. Lally, president and chief medical officer of Chino Valley Medical Center in Chino, and the Chino Hills High School Health Sciences Academy (HSA), a career exploration program.

HSA students may apply for internships after successfully completing Project Lead the Way's Biomedical Science and Human Body Systems courses at Chino Hills High and enrolling in the Baldy View Regional Occupational Program's Allied Health Skills course.

Students learn about various health care careers in the semester-long unpaid internship through job shadowing, observations, and personal interviews with medical professionals.

They rotate through eight to 10 departments in the hospital, including patient care, laboratory, front desk, emergency room, and central sterilization.

During the school year, students volunteer from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, for a total of six hours a week. In the summer, they volunteer 8 a.m. to noon or 1 to 5 p.m. for a total of 12 hours a week.

They must serve a minimum of 90 hours a semester on the job to earn five units of credits.

The interns must also be enrolled in the Work Experience Internship program and attend a weekly class where basic job readiness, work ethics, career exploration and labor laws are studied.

Additionally, HSA students interested in pediatric medicine are encouraged to intern in the Chino Valley Unified School District's after-school Fun Club programs to determine if they are gifted at dealing with young children.

Students interested in veterinary science or who want to practice particular medical skills early are encouraged to intern at Priceless Pets Orphanage in Chino Hills. At the center, the students can practice medical skills such as immunization, wound care, and medication administration on animals.

Some students intern in private practices specific to their career interest.

Over the last year, 41 HSA students have interned at Chino Valley Medical Center, 52 at Priceless Pets, 11 in private practices and at other facilities such as Casa Colina Center for Rehabilitation and the Chino Valley Independent Fire District's Fire Explorers program.

Students involved in the HSA internship program this school year include: Jonah Longares, Matthew Saucedo, Hugo Padilla III, McKayla Buchholz, Taylor Sims, Lauren Burgueno, Veronica Mamisay, and Angela Gao, Kyle Ayento, Ashley Staffor, Angelica Framel, Juliana Ospina, Kylie Kelly, Ian Gerodias, Sabrina Lam, Albert Chen, and Christopher Montoya, Taylor Barber, Jessica Bonilla, Monica Brizuela,

Mikayla Cutter, Faith Chavez, Mariah Diaz, Heather Dungca, Danielle Fjeldsted, Daniel Gaviria, Amanda Hidajat, Marissa Howdershelt, Jovanca Karnadi, Anna Konopelkin, Constance Lai, Juliana Ospina, Komal Oza, Alyssa Padilla, Rhiannon Rivas, Alicia Tien, Samuel Tito, Nicole Truong, Elijah Valdez, Isaiah Valdez, and Alexandria Williams.

For information about the internship program, contact Linda L. Zeigler, Work Based Learning and Internship Coordinator at Chino Hills High, linda_zeigler@chino.k12.ca.us. Students may also contact Ms. Zeigler at lunchtime. Parents may also call her at (909) 606-7540, ext. 5108.