

THE HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

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The Program's Mission

The mission of the Healthcare Workforce Development Program is to promote interest in the health professions and create opportunities to pursue health careers for a diverse population in Sonoma County. This program is a partnership between SRJC and the Healthcare Workforce Development Roundtable, comprised of industry partners from different organizations in Sonoma County. The HOPE Center, the Summer Health Careers Institute and the Health Careers Pipeline program are the main components of the Healthcare Workforce Development Program.

One of the primary goals of the HOPE Center is to broaden the horizons of students regarding opportunities for careers in a variety of allied health programs. Secondly, we offer support to currently enrolled students of nursing and allied health programs. We also recruit and prepare high school students to explore healthcare careers and promote readiness for community college programs. The highlights of the center include: a 12 station computer lab, free tutoring sessions, health



The HOPE Center is located in Barnett Hall 1282

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career fair, student emergency fund, student lounge, counseling for student success strategies and monthly presentations on health careers and health related issues.

The Summer Health Careers Institute is managed by Maria Aviña, who also coordinates the outreach component of the program. Bilingual high school sophomores and juniors (from all around Sonoma County) who are interested in a healthcare career, are welcome to apply. The program is a five week summer course at the SRJC campus that offers students an opportunity that is guaranteed to change their lives. The highlights of this program include: 15 high school credits, 5 college credits, job shadowing medical professionals, mentoring, first aid and CPR certification, health careers exploration, learning medical terminology and a stipend of \$500.

The Health Careers Pipeline Program was developed after creating the Summer Health Careers Institute program. To qualify for this program, college students must also be bilingual and show interest in a healthcare career. The program offers support to Santa Rosa Junior College students for one year and provides an opportunity to make career dreams a reality. This program offers job and internship exploration, field trips, tutoring, counseling for student success strategies and a stipend of \$200.



Students learned about the different health issues in our community



SHCI 2010 students experienced "The Quilt of Dreams" activity with counselor Luz Navarrette



Summer Health Careers Institute Class of 2010



Maria Aviña with the SHCI 2010 class

Summer Health Careers Institute Program

This year's Summer Health Careers Institute program was a great success, thanks to the support of the Healthcare Workforce Development Roundtable consortium of over 30 healthcare providers, high schools, the Sonoma County Office of Education, post-secondary education institutions, local government, and community based organizations. Since this program started in the summer of 2005, 132 students have taken part in the program. All of our students have been successful in the completion of the program. Due to this success, as well as the wonderful opportunities and resources our students obtain when participating in the program, many more students have applied. For the summer 2010 class, over 180 students applied to the program. However, only 22 students can be accepted into the program.

This summer, our students had the opportunity to be exposed to, and gain experience at, 16 different sites. Field trips included: South West Center, Alliance Medical, Medtronic, Family Service Agency, Memorial Hospital, Sutter Heart Center, Sonoma Developmental Center, American Red Cross, Kaiser Hospital, Family Medicine and Sutter Residency Program, Sonoma County Health Services

Dept. and the SRJC Sports Medicine Program. During this time, our students had a great opportunity to shadow various health care providers, and even do some hands-on activities. All 22 students stated how satisfied they were to have had those experiences.

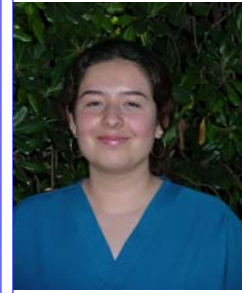
"I think the program is great! It was an honor to be chosen. I think that this program really gives students the inspiration needed to achieve their goals. It's super helpful." Guadalupe Ochoa, SHCI 2010 student

Additionally, the students had the opportunity to learn about SRJC campus resources such as EOPS, campus computer labs, Counseling, Financial Aid and Scholarships. Our students were introduced to SRJC resources on a weekly basis and had the opportunity to meet SRJC staff members such as Tony Vazquez, Rafael Vazquez, Luz Navarrete, Geoff Navarro and many others. Additionally, students had the opportunity to meet wonderful community leaders such as Dr. Francisco Vazquez, Director, Hutchins Institute for Public Policy and Community Action at Sonoma State University.

All of the students successfully completed the program with exemplary grades. Students, and their family and friends then participated in the culminating graduation night.

The HWDP staff members will miss the students greatly, but know that we will maintain relationships with them as we continue to provide support services.

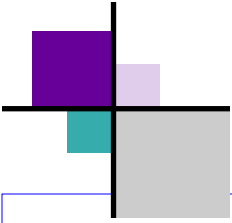
Para mas informacion en Español llamar a Maria Aviña al (707)521-7881



Natalie Sanchez began attending SRJC in the Fall of 2006 after she graduated from

Piner High School. In her Junior year of high school, she was accepted into the Summer Health Career Institute program. Subsequently, she became part of the Health Careers Pipeline Program. Her goal one day was to enter the SRJC Nursing program. Recently, she shifted gears after volunteering at the Scottish Rite Children's Language and Learning Center in Santa Rosa. Natalie's goal is to attend either Sacramento State or San Diego State University, where she will pursue her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Speech Pathology. She will continue to volunteer at the center until she transfers in the Spring 2011.

"SHCI and HCP helped me a lot since it opened the opportunity for me to be interested in becoming a Speech Pathologist. I began volunteering at the center because it was a requirement for the HCP program. I was able to meet very nice people and I'm very thankful." Natalie Sanchez



HOPE Center Service Learning Program

The Service Learning Program (SLP) provides opportunities for students to gain on-the-job experience in the field of healthcare, determine if they have an interest in a particular career and create a network of contacts.

These opportunities vary from a job shadowing experience in which a student observes a healthcare professional, to a determined number of hours per week in which a student volunteers in a healthcare setting and completes duties assigned by the business that will help them grow as a health professional.

Anyone who is working toward a career in healthcare is eligible to apply. The program currently has over 40 different locations to choose from and more opportunities coming in regularly.

Do you have a volunteer opportunity that could benefit a future healthcare student? Maybe you are a future healthcare professional that wants to give back to your community. Either way, please contact Denise Blabon at (707) 527-4985.

Tutoring is a Necessity!

The Healthcare Workforce Development Program knows that one of the biggest hurdles in developing future healthcare professionals is the dreaded life science and chemistry prerequisites. That is why we offer free tutoring in Anatomy, Physiology & Chemistry. **Statistics prove that students who participate in tutoring have a lower withdrawal rate and receive higher grades than those who do not.**

For example, in the Spring 2010 semester, the withdrawal rate for students who did not participate in one of our tutoring workshops was 29% (i.e. 29% of students that enrolled in and attended an Anatomy 1 or 58 class withdrew from the class after it started). The withdrawal rate for students who participated in our tutoring sessions was less than 1%. The average GPA in Anatomy for students not participating in tutoring was 2.63. The average GPA in Anatomy for students who did participate in our tutoring workshops was 3.06. We know that classes like Anatomy 1 or 58 are not easy to successfully complete, but we also know that students who participate in our tutoring workshops are more successful.

English tutoring is also available to students who need a paper reviewed or need help with an outline. The program also offers specific tutoring to students already enrolled in a health science program – such as Medical Terminology. We also offer a prep course for the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) Test, a test that ADN & LVN students take upon acceptance into their programs. The TEAS workshop is a great way for students to review the material that is covered on the test and build their overall confidence for taking the final test. Students studying English as a second language can be especially challenged by this test, and our statistics have shown that these students are better prepared upon completing the 4 session workshop.

The Healthcare Workforce Development Program knows that tutoring is the key to success and encourages all students to take advantage of these free opportunities. **If a student is falling behind and has a need that we do not already offer with one of our current tutoring workshops, we will work directly with the student and program coordinator to get that student some added support.**

HOPE Center

*Health Occupation
Preparation & Education*

*Barnett Hall, Room 1282
1501 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 527-4809*

*Hours of Operation:
M-F 8am-5pm
Wednesdays 8am-7pm*



Highlight of a Staff member



Denise Blabon began her career at SRJC as a part time Administrative Assistant with the Healthcare Workforce Development Program. Concurrently, she was working full time as an Operations Manager at the American Heart Association. She ultimately left her job at the American Heart Association and came to work for the program full time. During the summer of 2006, the HWDP staff knew that funding was running low and they needed to cut back. Therefore Denise applied for a position with the SRJC Admissions & Records Department, and was hired as an A & R Technician in August of 2006.

In September of 2007, the Healthcare Workforce Development Program was awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the California Community College Chancellor's Office. Thus the HOPE (Health Occupations Preparation & Education) Center was created—a place to support students studying toward a healthcare career. Denise applied for, and was hired as, the HOPE Center Coordinator in October 2007.

One of her favorite things about her job is interacting with students. She enjoys working one on one with students to help them find their way; both around the SRJC campus and in life in general. "It means so much to help them through their journey and watch them accomplish their goals." She also enjoys working with her peers, both within her department and with the entire SRJC campus. She says she feels very fortunate to work with an amazing group of individuals...all working together to support our students. "We are definitely a team!"

When Denise was asked what has been the greatest challenge she has faced as the HOPE Coordinator, she replied, "Sometimes I wish I had more resources to serve our students with. It is evident that students today are faced with more complicated challenges than I ever was. I am fortunate that our program is able to help as much as it is, but there are times I wish we could do more and alleviate some of the burden that our students are facing."

When Denise is not at work, she is involved in her local chapter of the Active 20-30 Club. This is a national & international service organization that holds fundraisers and provides hands-on activities for low income and disadvantaged youth in our communities. "This club is a true gift in my life. I have had amazing travel opportunities, met wonderful friends from all over the world and it has given me an opportunity to give back to the community that I grew up in."

She also enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends, whether it is at the mall shopping or enjoying a peaceful day on the lake.

Healthcare Workforce Development Program *Staff Contact Information*

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Luz Navarrette, Counselor
HCP Case Manager

- Mentorship
- Counseling
- Instructor

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Maria Aviña, Program Coordinator
HCP Case Manager

- Summer Health Career Institute
- Paid jobs
- Externship program
- SRJC Graduates
- Job Placement – College Grads

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