VictoriaAdvocate.com

UHV/VC NEWS

Students attend health camp

FROM NEWS RELEASE

This past week, 17 high school students spent three days exploring healthcare careers at local hospitals and at Victoria College.

The students – boys and girls entering grades 10 through 12 who have expressed interest in healthcare careers – came from area high schools and included home-schooled students.

The program, sponsored by the Pecan Valley Area Health Education Center, was aimed at introducing students to a variety of career choices within the healthcare industry.

Students had the opportunity to speak directly with healthcare professionals and learn about their careers in a variety of settings.

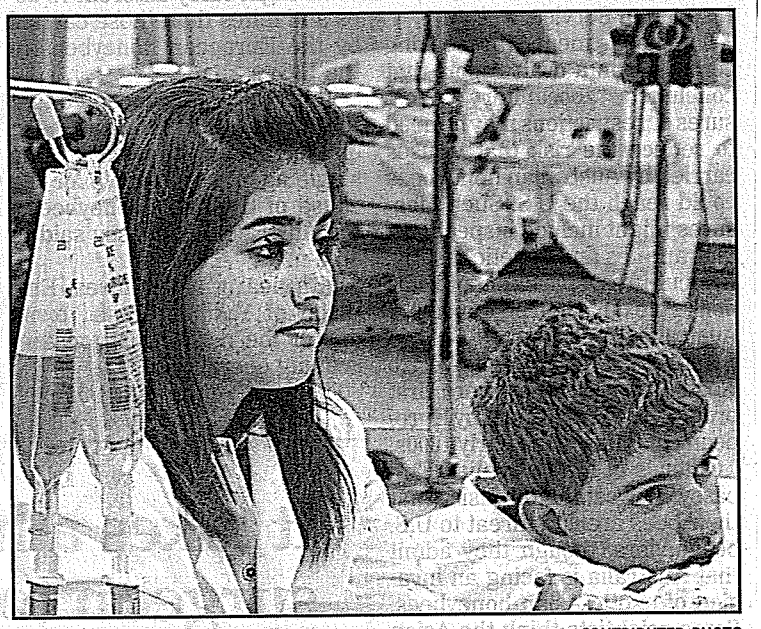
The program gave students the information they need to develop a plan for reaching their career goals.

Additionally, camp participants were encouraged to explore beyond the basics and do further research to gather information on what they need to do to enter into a healthcare career.

Program activities included participation in hands-on health labs in nursing, medical lab technology and respiratory therapy in the VC Health Sciences Center.

They also had the opportunity to visit and observe hospital departmental activities in physical therapy, radiology and the pharmacy.

Clinical and nonclinical healthcare career presentations and breakout sessions were also part of the three-day program, along with guidance and advice from VC financial aid counselors and academic advisors.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students listen to Victoria College nursing students talk about healthcare career education at Healthcare Careers Camp last week.

Health workers help El Campo get in shape

FROM NEWS RELEASE

Four El Campo healthcare workers recently helped towns people get into shape, while paying off college loans.

The workers, are part of the Area Health Education Center Professional Corps, which helps those who have educational loans for healthcare careers repay their loans by completing community service projects.

Pecan Valley AHEC, located on Victoria College campus, sponsored these healthcare workers in completing their community service project.

Rural hospitals that become members of the AHEC Professional Corps may offer the program to attract well-qualified healthcare workers.

By providing this additional incentive, participating employers can offer employees—the opportunity to earn $4,750 toward their educational loans at the end of a year of service and successful completion of a sponsored community service project.

Ray Fore, Jessica Hopper, Laura Williams and Gwynn Wigginton combined their efforts to organize the El Campo Meltdown project. They anticipated signing up as many as 25 teams of five people, each paying a $20 joining fee, but ended up with nearly 90 teams.

The project was promoted on local radio stations, in the newspaper, on the local Community Crossroads broadcast and on information fliers posted in schools, hospitals and stores.

Teams weighed in every two weeks and received support from their team as well as other teams via a special Facebook page where participants also traded recipes and other weight loss tips.

At the end of the eight-week program, the combined total weight loss for all participants was nearly 3,000 pounds.

All participants received an El Campo Meltdown T-shirt. Special awards and recognition were given for the highest percentage of weight loss for teams and individuals in addition to the team with the best name.

Participants also organized walking groups and got their children involved in healthy eating habits and activities.

College foundation awards professional development grants

Money used to update equipment, instruction methods, student programs

FROM NEWS RELEASE

The Victoria College Foundation awarded more than $20,000 in grants to faculty and staff to promote professional development.

Funds are used to update equipment and instruction methods, create new support student programs and provide new outreach programs for the community.

VC Foundation grants have helped support faculty research projects, support professional conferences and paid stipends for curriculum-based projects.

Funds have also been used to purchase materials and equipment to increase student success. Grant funding has provided for the review and revision of course curriculum to meet changing workplace needs.

VC faculty have also used grant funds to start new instructional programs for students and the community's economic needs.

"Each year, these awards enable VC's faculty and staff to purchase equipment or materials, attend conferences or pilot innovative programs that result in improved service to our students and the community," said Jennifer Yancey, vice president of College Advancement and External Affairs. "And that is why the VC Foundation considers these grants to be such an important part of its work in supporting the college."

Jennifer Yancey,
vice president of College Advancement and External Affairs

"Each year, these awards enable VC's faculty and staff to purchase equipment or materials, attend conferences or pilot innovative programs that result in improved service to our students and the community."

This year, nearly $7,000 was awarded to the VC marketing department to pay for an advertising wrap. The trailer wrap will act as a mobile billboard and increase awareness about the college.

The biology department was awarded $1,300 to purchase a student response system for campus-wide use. Student response systems are used in distance learning and allow students to respond to questions posed by an instructor and for instructors to view student feedback in real-time. The system will add classroom interaction and will help the instructor customize instruction based.

Funding was also awarded to help faculty members an attend academic advising training. An additional two faculty members will also attend a summer workshop for specialized training supporting VC's First Year Experience Program.

The Healthcare Careers Camp for high school students conducted by the Pecan Valley Area Health Education Center was also funded by the VC Foundation.

Funding was also awarded to support VC sports programs and will be used to purchase two sets of portable bleachers for use in the VC sports center gym.

VC's Financial Literacy Committee was awarded funding to help pay for marketing materials. The Financial Literacy Committee focuses on providing students the information, tools and resources to manage their money and make sound financial decisions.