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For More Information Contact:
Susan Rak-Blanchard
Director, Communications & Marketing
251.431.8641 / 251.408.2285 (cell)

Annual Health Occupations Career Fair Addresses Top Demand Occupations in Mobile County

The Bay Area Healthcare Coalition and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce will once again help students interested in future healthcare careers experience and learn about specific sectors through the annual Health Occupations Career Fair.

The event is set for Wednesday, Feb. 24 and Thursday, Feb. 25 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mobile Civic Center Expo Hall. Nearly 700 Mobile and Baldwin County high school sophomores selected by their guidance counselors are scheduled to attend. (The schedule showing arrival times of each school is attached.)

According to the June 2015 *State of the Workforce Report* released by The University of Alabama's Center for Business and Economic Research, registered nurses is No. 1 on the top high-demand occupations, with personal care aids at No. 3 and home health aides, No. 5.

Additional highlights from the report include:

- The top five fast-growing occupations include personal care aides, physical therapist assistants and diagnostic medial sonographers, rated as first, second and third, respectively.
- In the top 50 high-earning occupations with average salaries ranging between \$79,194 and \$276,411, eight of the top 10 are health occupations.
- Nurse practitioner is the only occupation to rank in the top 40 high-demand, top 20 fast-growing and top 50 high-earning categories.

“The Health Occupations Career Fair is often a student’s first hands-on opportunity in a variety of careers. While the experience is simulated, our exhibitors strive to create excitement about their chosen profession. We know this experience translates into educated decisions about their own career choices,” says **Carol Statter**, workforce development coordinator with Infirmary Health and coalition chairman.

Students will rotate through 15 exhibits and conduct activities such as putting splints on broken thumbs, practice injections, drill through bones, learn rehabilitation procedures and more.

According to organizers, in the career fair's 12 years more than 9,000 students have participated in the program.

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