



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10 January, 2013

For More Information Contact:
Susan Rak-Blanchard
Director, Communications & Marketing
251.431.8641 / 251.421.4955 (cell)

Annual Health Occupations Career Fair Set for Jan. 16 & 17

In its 10th year organizers revamped the annual **Health Occupations Career Fair** scheduled for **Wednesday, Jan. 16** and **Thursday, Jan. 17** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the **Mobile Civic Center Expo Hall**. As the signature project of the Bay Area Healthcare Coalition and Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's Center for Workforce Development, the event is open to high school students (grades 9, 10 and 11) interested in exploring healthcare professions.

Students get hands-on experience with mock patients at nine stations, starting with the 911 call and following the injured from the scene of an auto accident. Exhibits vary based on careers, specific activities and diagnoses, as well as the education needed to succeed in each field. Students will intubate a patient, administer CPR, deliver a baby, review x-rays for broken bones in the radiology exhibit, put splints on broken thumbs, perform surgery and go through rehabilitation procedures, among others. This year students will have more time at each session, expanded to 15 minutes from the previous 10 minute schedule.

More than 20 Mobile and Baldwin county public and private schools are scheduled to attend the two-day event. Students who meet GPA and other criteria and are interested in healthcare careers sign up through their school counselors to attend. According to organizers, in the 10 years the career fair has been held around 8,000 students have gone through the program.

"It is really satisfying to see alumni of this program coming back as employees to participate in this career fair," says **Carol Statter**, coalition chairman. "When this program began our area was facing critical shortages in the healthcare industry. Today, we are not seeing the openings other cities are, yet those interested in the field are still able to find jobs. I expect as the economy progresses, we'll have the workforce needed for our industry to grow, due, in part, to this career fair."

###