



For Immediate Release
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Area Students Prepare for the Future Working World

More than 150 Mobile and Baldwin County high school sophomores and juniors are spending a few of their last days of summer vacation exploring a future career in healthcare. On the mornings of Monday, July 29 through Thursday, Aug. 1, students are participating in the 10th annual Summer Scrubs internship program, organized by the Bay Area Healthcare Coalition and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.

The effort is successful in drawing students to the local healthcare field. According to a survey of previous participants, results show 24 percent of Summer Scrubs alumni are working in healthcare and another 69 percent are enrolled in healthcare studies.

“Finding enough qualified applicants continues to be a challenge for the industry,” says Carol Statter, with Infirmiry Health System and chair of the Bay Area Healthcare Coalition. “That challenge will only become greater over time since nearly 45 percent of our regional population is over the age of 45.”

Students rotate locations to various medical facilities on both sides of the bay, and in the process they get an up-front, hands-on look at urgent care centers, orthopaedic clinics, hospitals, and research and treatment centers. They will learn about a range of fields and potential salaries from \$32,000 for a surgical technician with an associate degree to \$200,000 for a doctor with a medical degree.

“Quite often, students enroll in a healthcare program, only to find during their clinical rotation, they don’t enjoy the work. By providing this opportunity, we see the

students who embrace the experience are returning to our area and fill the positions that continue to be available, explains Statter.

At the conclusion of this year's effort, approximately 1,500 students will have participated in the program since its inception.

Participating Mobile and Baldwin sites for 2013 are:

- Alabama Orthopaedic Clinic PC, Mobile
- Bayside Orthopaedic, Fairhope and Foley
- Diagnostic and Medical Clinic, Mobile
- Eastern Shore Urgent Care, Daphne
- Infirmary Urgent Care, Gulf Shores
- Mobile County Health Department, Mobile
- Mobile Infirmary, Mobile
- North Baldwin Infirmary, Bay Minette
- Providence Hospital, Mobile
- Springhill Medical Center, Mobile
- South Baldwin Regional Medical Center, Foley
- The Orthopaedic Group PC, Mobile
- Thomas Hospital, Fairhope
- USA Children's & Women's Hospital, Mobile
- USA Medical Center, Mobile
- USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, Mobile

The Bay Area Healthcare Coalition grew out of a Mobile Area Chamber initiative to build industry coalitions to help address projected shortages. Students applied to participate in this behind-the-scene look into the industry and were selected on merit.

Event sponsors include: AltaPointe Health Systems, Infirmary Health, Providence Hospital, Springhill Medical Center, USA Children's and Women's Hospital, and USA Medical Center.

Editors: Attached is a spreadsheet that shows what schools the students attend and where they will be during the week.

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