

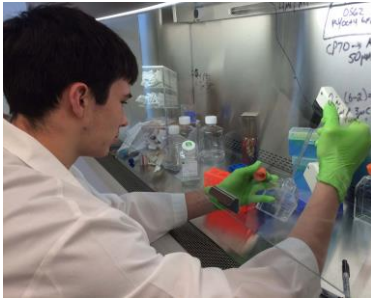


For Immediate Release
July 25, 2014

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

Area Students Prepare for Healthcare Careers

Meet Patrick Howse



One of the 2013 Summer Scrubs student participants, Patrick Howse is a rising junior at UMS-Wright. After the group toured the Mitchell Cancer Institute (MCI) last year, he was offered a potential internship. He followed-up on the opportunity and is spending this summer learning the science behind cancer treatments.

Howse is considering continuing his education after high school in bio-medical engineering.

MCI contact is Margaret Sullivan, 251.445.9810 or 251.454.1182.

Organizers of Summer Scrubs gave rising high school seniors priority status to participate in this year's week-long healthcare internship program for high school students. Approximately 140 Mobile and Baldwin County students will spend Monday, July 28 through Thursday, July 31 exploring their top career choice at area hospitals and clinics.

The 11th annual event is run by the Bay Area Healthcare Coalition and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.

“Most Summer Scrubs participants have a pretty good idea about the career they want to pursue. Host sites, in return, make it possible for students to observe their work, helping them reinforce their decisions and exposing them to other career choices,” says Carol Statter, with Infirmary Health System and chair of the Bay Area Healthcare Coalition. “That way, if they change their mind, it’s before they invest valuable time and money in post-secondary education.”

Statter says the initiative began to help the area avoid anticipated drastic industry shortages seen in other communities as the population ages.

Students rotate locations each morning, learning 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.

At the conclusion of this year's effort, approximately 1,600 students will have participated in the program since its inception. Participating Mobile and Baldwin sites for 2014 are:

- Alabama Orthopaedic Clinic PC, Mobile
- Diagnostic and Medical Clinic, Mobile
- 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
- South Baldwin Regional and Urgent Care, Gulf Shores
- The Orthopaedic Group PC, Mobile
- Thomas Hospital, Fairhope
- USA Children's & Women's Hospital, Mobile
- USA Medical Center, Mobile
- USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, Mobile

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, Mobile County Public School System, 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.

###