

Middle School HEALTHCARE CAREERS Awareness Days 2019



This year, eight organizations joined the Healthcare Workforce Partnership of Western Massachusetts for its HEALTHCARE CAREERS Awareness Days program. Bay Path University, Baystate Medical Center, College of Our Lady of the Elms, Greenfield Community College, Holyoke Community College, Springfield Technical Community College, Shriners' Hospital for Children-Springfield, Western New England University, and University of Massachusetts, Amherst – School of Nursing provided a career emersion experience to students who will decide between attending a college preparatory or a vocational high school in the upcoming school year.

The organizations' partnership in this very important program, allowed 128 students from Chicopee, Springfield and Westfield to observe and learn from healthcare practitioners in the practice setting. It provided them with first-hand, real life exposure to healthcare professions, as well as informed and equipped them for future education and career planning decisions. This collaboration amongst employers, education, workforce development and community-based organizations is one step closer to preparing students with the information and experiences to promote STEM infused education and careers in healthcare.

Feedback from guidance counselors:

"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to bring 18 of our 8th graders to Shriners Hospital last week. The students had a great time and learned a lot from the different speakers! Overall, it was a really positive experience. My only feedback would be that we did not get to take an actual tour of the facilities because it was still flu season. Our students were anticipating that they would be able to see a little bit of the building."

"I just wanted to take a quick minute to let you know Bellamy had a fantastic time at STCC. Bill made everything on par for our middle school students. They loved getting involved as well as seeing their options as far as a college. I already told next year's guidance counselor this is something to definitely do again!"