Out of the classroom and into the future

Nearly 200 Grade 9 students from across Hamilton got a glimpse of what it’s like to work in health care through HHS’ annual Take Our Kids to Work Day program.

On Nov. 6, 2013 Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) was given a look into the future of health care as it welcomed nearly 200 Grade 9 students from across Hamilton into its annual Take Our Kids to Work Day program. This program gives high school students a taste of what the ‘real world’ is like by providing them with opportunities to sample a variety of healthcare careers.

As the students stepped out of their classroom and into the hospital, they were guided by HHS staff members and exposed to what a real day is like in the healthcare field. With so many layers available to explore, students were constantly on their toes as the various facets of healthcare became apparent to them.

The students charged head-on into a number of activities, including: a lesson in surgical set-up and instrumentation; assessments in the hearing clinic; learning about positions with the interdisciplinary team in the intensive care unit, participating in simulated cardiac interventional studies in the heart investigation unit; starting IVs and placing casts.

“Most students are aware of careers in nursing and medicine, but don’t realize all of the other important jobs that are needed within a healthcare environment,” says Romaine Sheriff, manager of student affairs at HHS. “Our hope is that students will remember how much fun they had and will consider working with us when they are ready to embark on a career.”

Take Our Kids to Work Day is a nation-wide program sponsored by The Learning Partnership and the Hamilton-Wentworth Industry Education Council. Hamilton Health Sciences’ TOKT WD program is facilitated by staff members in the clinical practice & education department and made possible through the co-operation and involvement of clinical and non-clinical staff members from across HHS’ sites.

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