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The Education Foundation and Alachua County Schools help 90 Middle School Students Explore Healthcare Career Pathways

Gainesville, FL - October 4, 2023 - [The Education Foundation of Alachua County](#) and the Alachua County Public Schools' [Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) department](#) have partnered to promote medical career exploration. As Florida is poised for a 16% increase in healthcare careers, The Education Foundation of Alachua County is helping students prepare for these critical jobs by exposing them to career opportunities in middle school, so they can visualize a path forward in high school and beyond.

On October 11th and October 18th, 45 students from Howard Bishop and 45 students from Lincoln Middle Schools will visit and learn from high school students in Eastside High's Medical Skills Program and The Academy of Fire & EMS at Professional Academies Magnet at Loften High.

Middle-school students will hear from health career professionals from HCA Florida North Florida, UF College of Medicine, and Santa Fe College's Health Sciences Department to understand the myriad medical careers beyond doctors and nurses that help hospitals thrive..

Medical topics that will be covered during these field trips include;

- Vital signs and spine immobilization,
- Patient transportation,
- CPR,
- Sonography,
- Respiratory Care,
- Nuclear Medicine,
- Radiology,
- Pharmacy,
- Stroke Team, and
- Diet and Nutrition

This new initiative was funded by a grant for \$18,000 as part of a two-year \$500,000 grant from the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation to the [Consortium of Florida Education Foundations \(Consortium\)](#) to help local education foundations across that state. It is aimed at increasing student interest in healthcare careers and successful participation in high school healthcare career academies, particularly among students from underrepresented communities.



“The Consortium is pleased to bring much-needed healthcare career pathway exploration and acceleration opportunities to students across the state of Florida,” said Mary Chance, President/CEO of the Consortium. “As healthcare careers continue to be in-demand, the need to inspire and engage students in this area is critical.”

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The Education Foundation of Alachua County, Inc. is a 501(C)3 organization founded in 1986 to support the Alachua County Public Schools. The Foundation has three programs to transform education in our community: Senior Scholarship, Take Stock in Children and Catalyst for Change. For more information, please visit <http://edfoundationac.org/about-us/>.



Previous work in this area:

<https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/guardian/2023/05/08/program-in-gainesville-helps-improve-diversity-and-retention-in-nursing/70195419007/>