Summer Scrubs program introduces high school students to health

care careers

August 25, 2008

Dear Colleagues,

Our nation’s health rests on developing a work force with the expertise and passion for medical education, research and patient care. Academic health centers like UC Davis are the place where that happens — we train the doctors, nurses, technicians and researchers of the future.

We are deeply committed to this mission, and know it’s vitally important to reach and support students early as they embrace their dreams of health care careers. We had a special opportunity to connect with young people this month when 24 students from the prestigious Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School attended our Summer Scrubs program.

Summer Scrubs helps talented high school students achieve their dreams of health care careers through in-depth preparation for their upcoming SAT exams, with a special medical emphasis. The students were thrilled to work with our librarians to improve reading and vocabulary by learning medical terminology. They got to hear our faculty tell fascinating stories — like Dr. Fitzgerald’s lecture on famous people with neurological disorders.

And, they got to meet role models — UC Davis faculty who urge them to work for their dreams. They heard from Darin Latimore who grew up in a rough neighborhood where many of his friends ended up in jail or dead. He never gave up on his dreams, went to medical school and now is our new director of student diversity.

Summer Scrubs is one way UC Davis is meeting the challenge of developing our future health care work force. We have endorsed the report from the Association of Academic Health Centers’ "Out of Order, Out of Time: The State of the Nation’s Health Workforce" — a true call to action (http://www.aahcdc.org/policy/workforce.php). Please read it and share your ideas of more ways we can be the solution to this critical challenge.

And, thanks to all of you who teach at Summer Scrubs and in all our training and educational venues. Together, we will ensure that the health workers of tomorrow are being trained today!

Sincerely,

Claire
P.S. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have. Send me an e-mail.