

AHEC
WESTERN MONTANA
AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

R.E.A.C.H.

Research and Explore Awesome
Careers in Healthcare

A one-day hospital program offered to students, grades 6-12, which provides hands-on exposure to healthcare professions



Four



Why R.E.A.C.H.?

- R.E.A.C.H. is hands-on
 - R.E.A.C.H. is on-site
- R.E.A.C.H. makes learning fun



R.E.A.C.H IS HANDS- ON

- focused on **hands-on activities** that are lead by healthcare providers
- takes place at the local healthcare facility and is open to high school students from the local high school(s)



“80% of all data learned by students is attained via visual means. The ‘learn by doing’ process is vital in retention of information for adolescents.”



R.E.A.C.H. IS ON-SITE

1. Provide Montana high school students a chance to learn about careers within the healthcare field and the opportunity to see behind-the-scenes at a real hospital
2. Expose students to today's health issues
3. Explore and strengthen student's skills for health career development
4. Encourage the next generation of youth to choose fulfilling careers in the healthcare field that serve their communities.



R.E.A.C.H. IS FUN

▪ *“I can’t believe how sanitary everything is and how many different fields are out there.”*

▪ *“ER was interesting; the fake trauma was very cool.”*

▪ *“Learning how to do an I.V. was cool – I didn’t think I could do it.”*

▪ *“ I had more fun than I expected and I learned a lot.”*

▪ *“Finding the fetal heart beat was so awesome.”*

▪ *“Amazing… I learned so much that I talked to my teacher all the way home.”*



R.E.A.C.H. Stations

Throughout the day students rotate through a variety of stations at the healthcare facility – both clinical and non-clinical – with an **emphasis on hands-on activities**.

Laboratory, Emergency Room, Radiology, Physical Therapy, Medical Office, Clinic, Business Office, Nursing, EMT, Dental, Facility Services, etc.

R.E.A.C.H. Logistics

Western Montana AHEC coordinates & organizes

Day-long event on a school day – usually the same time frame as school begins & ends

FREE to students

Scrubs top with R.E.A.C.H. logo provided to the students – WMT AHEC funds

BBQ or sack lunch provided to students and volunteers – funded by healthcare facility vendor or healthcare facility

Hospital's Role

- Willing to let students, and EXCITED about having students, in your facility!
- Professionals who are passionate about their jobs and interested in working with students (to lead the stations).
- Responsible for the cost/time of providers to lead the stations and any materials used during the stations.
- Time to set aside a full day dedicated to R.E.A.C.H.

Western Montana AHEC's Role

- Coordinates event with school district calendar and schedule
- Maintains all communications between hospital outreach coordinator and school staff
- Channels all necessary student, staff, and chaperone paperwork (permission slips, HIPAA, media release)
- Prepares and distributes news release(s)
- Provides folders, tags, and scrubs to students
- Monitors students' rotations through stations
- Distributes and reviews evaluations

R.E.A.C.H. PROGRAMS 2013-'14 SCHOOL YEAR



St. Luke Hospital, Oct., 2013,
41 Charlo & Ronan sophomores



UM CHPBS, Dec., 2013 (2),
120 Big Sky freshmen



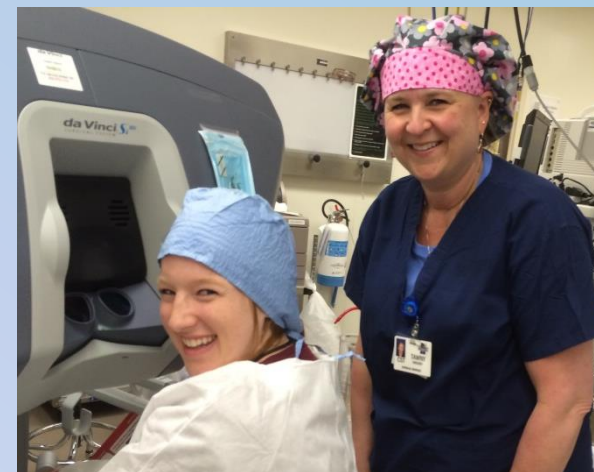
Mineral Community Hospital, Feb, 2014, (2)
44 Superior, Alberton & Regis sophomores



Providence St. Joe, May, 2014
28 Polson & St. Ignatius
juniors & seniors



Kalispell Regional Healthcare, Apr, 2014,
86 from Eureka & Thompson Falls
8th graders



Community Medical Ctr., May, 2014, (2)
51 Hellgate & Sentinel juniors & seniors

Why R.E.A.C.H.?

- Healthcare the fastest growing occupation in Montana;
1300 jobs per year
- 15,000 new medical grads (MDs, not including DOs) in
2009 in US
 - Only 1,071 into Family Practice; 155 into internal
medicine

We must start somewhere...we must start somehow!

There is a crucial need to get more students
entering healthcare professions.



Connecting students to careers,
professionals to communities, and
communities to better health.

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