

Educators 4 Education and Drexel University College of Nursing Collaborates on New High School Nursing Pre-Apprenticeship Program

Educators 4 Education (E4E) in collaboration with Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions welcomed 15 Philadelphia high school students to the profession of nursing through a new nursing pre-apprentice program.

The nursing pre-apprenticeship program is a six-week after-school program designed for high school students ages 15 -18 interested in pursuing a career in nursing. The program was held from October 22, 2024, and ended on December 10, 2024. Students attended a 1.5-hour weekly session at Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Profession to learn about the nursing profession and explore their interest through interactive hands-on educational sessions. Incentives included \$15 an hour stipend, transportation support, and dinner.

The program aims to expose local community high school students to the nursing profession through experimental learning opportunities while increasing diversity to the nursing profession. The goal of the collaboration is to “expose a new generation to the nursing profession while expanding diversity and making the profession stronger,” Drexel Nursing faculty, Jen said. Jen further stated “Getting to know them and seeing how investing in them made them want to invest in themselves and watching them grown and open up during the six weeks was the best part of the program”

The nursing pre-apprentice program commits to enhancing diversity in the nursing workforce. Nurses play an important role in



patient experiences and can improve the quality of care for patients. When nurses are members of the population they serve, they build trust and share perspectives that prepares the profession to care for an increasingly diverse patient population.

During the program, students participated in discussions that focused on students' career interests and professional goals. High school students engaged in discussions facilitated by Drexel's nursing faculty, nursing students, and EMT/medical professionals to learn about the nursing profession and discover various career paths in health care. Students learned and practiced technical nursing assessment skills such as how to take vital signs, different routes of medication administration, and listening to heart and lung sounds. As part of their experience,

students toured the Drexel's cadaver lab and received training in intranasal Narcan administration, CPR, and were certified in Stop the Bleed. At the conclusion of the program, students put all their skills in practice during a disaster simulation.

All of the participants gave raving reviews. Kalel, a high school student, signed up for the program to learn something new to help him move on to better opportunities. He enjoyed the hands-on experience in learning how to place a feeding tube down the mannequin. “I liked the exposure. I never had this opportunity before and a lot of this was new to me,” high school student, David said. “If you want to look into the medical field, you should take this program. You will find it interesting,” high school student, Tyrel.

For more information about E4E's Nursing Pre-Apprentice program contact Educators 4 Education via e-mail at info@educators4education.org or by phone (215) 792-3171. High schoolers who are interested in the next cycle can sign up by Scanning the QR code:

