Library as Outreach Destination for Youth: Getting Them Excited about Medical Professions

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Library as Outreach Destination for Youth: Getting Them Excited about Medical Professions

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Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, University of Iowa

The purpose of this poster is to share details about an outreach component of the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine Junior Mini Medical School program that involves library staff providing "tours" and simulation experiences to stimulate youth interest in science and health professions.

How it Began

Conversations with the Carver College of Medicine’s external relations department and the library simulation center advisory committee created an opportunity for Hardin Library to participate in the junior mini medical school program.

Simulation Center Tours

Several library staff have collaborated to create interactive simulation activities for youth, often from underrepresented populations, using selected simulation equipment housed in the library. Stations are selected based on group size, age of students, and staff availability. The stations are manned with librarians and undergraduate student helpers.

Eye Exams with Simulators

"I liked learning about the eyes"

Knot Tying, Pills, and Listening

"It was educational and definitely worth my time"

Cardiac Rhythm Evaluation

"Harvey was interactive and fun"

Clinical tests: Sensory, Cognitive and Neurological

"Hardin Library had fun hands-on activities"

Cyber-Anatomy, Skeletons, and a Sexless Human Torso

"[The tour] gave me courage to keep pursuing the medical field"

Results and Conclusions

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<th>Numbers &amp; Impact</th>
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<td>2009</td>
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Lessons Learned & Ideas for Future Directions

- Keep students active and moving
- Ask local experts for help
- Involve staff from all levels
- Increase outreach to school districts within 50 mile radius
- Create scripts for different age groups
- Take it on the road!

Outcomes/Conclusions

- Reports indicate positive impact on the junior mini medical school curriculum
- Offers staff team building experiences
- Allows for developing/expanding connections with colleagues from the College of Medicine, College of Education, and other programs
- Creates opportunities for staff/student employees to learn about working with diverse groups
- Increases visibility of our library through local media reporting of our tours
- Stimulates youth interest in health sciences fields and even medical librarianship
- Project has received STEM funding from State of Iowa

Note of credit: pictures taken by Carol Grow Johnk