

# Students Receive Guidance on Future Medical Careers

**HEALTH:** Doctors bring Hippocrates Circle program to Pacoima middle school.

*This is a regular feature on philanthropic activities by Valley-area businesspeople and companies.*

Physicians from a local **Kaiser Permanente** hospital recently taught Pacoima students about entering medical field.

The Hippocrates Circle program at Kaiser's **Panorama City Medical Center** aims to give disadvantaged children a head start in pursuing their goals of obtaining medical degrees.

Forty-six students from Maclay Middle School in Pacoima were the latest group to complete the program on May 18.

Through the program, the sixth-, seventh-, and eighth- grade students met with a diverse group of physicians from the Panorama City hospital. The physicians told the students about the challenges they faced in achieving success

## GIVING

due to their cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

A representative of the Health Education Department in Panorama City also gave the bi-lingual presentation to the students and their parents about the application process for loans, grants and scholarships

On May 5, the students took a tour at the University of California, Irvine's School of Medicine. **Dr. Juan Vargas**, who



**Class: Maclay Middle School students show off certificates for completing health careers program.**

graduated from the school and now practices family medicine at Kaiser's Panorama City Medical Center, led the tour.

"I see myself when I look in the faces of these kids," Vargas said. "Words really can't express the personal joy and professional satisfaction I get from being able to help nurture their goal for a career in medicine."

On May 7, the students also toured Kaiser's Panorama City hospital, where they got to interact with health care professionals.