

## HIPPOCRATES CIRCLE ADVANCES STUDENT CAREERS IN MEDICINE

**February 2010**

Since 2000, Kaiser Permanente's Hippocrates Circle Program (HCP) has provided opportunities for diverse, under-represented middle school students to learn about how to become a physician. The program provides tools and one-on-one mentoring to students to help them successfully enter higher education in medicine and ultimately become a clinician.

### **HCP at South Bay**

"The Hippocrates Circle Program will help KP get outstanding physicians in the future," says Cheryl Browne, MD, Continuing Care and South Bay's HCP physician champion. "The program is a great opportunity for students to have a positive exposure to health careers and our organization."

For the past four years, South Bay has partnered with Glenn Hammond Curtiss Middle School in Carson to identify high achieving seventh and eighth grade students for the five-month program.

"Thanks to our well established relationship with Curtiss Middle School, we are reaching students at the right age to inspire them to consider a career in medicine," says Lisa Montes, MD, Pediatrics, Gardena Medical Offices. "We are also fortunate to have a committed group of physician mentors from across disciplines who volunteer to make the experience successful for the students."

The program begins with an evening of orientation for students and their parents. Physicians share their personal stories and discuss how they entered the medical profession. The following month the students get a tour of the South Bay Medical Center and lunch with their mentors. During the program's third month, students meet undergraduate students, learn about affording college and get a tour of California State University, Dominguez Hills. During the fourth month, students learn about the rigors of being a medical student while touring the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. The program concludes with a graduation ceremony.

At the December 17 "graduation" ceremony for the 2009 class, Ozzie Martinez, assistant medical center administrator, gave the keynote address and discussed how he advanced into his own career in health care. Carson Mayor Jim Dear and City Councilmember Mike Gipson also attended the celebration to congratulate the students and their parents.

# News & Events



Thank you to each of the 2009 physician mentors: Cristina Amaya, MD; Miguel Arias, MD; Cheryl Browne, MD; Jereme Butler, MD; Donna Ehlers, MD; Mary Eno, MD; Vanessa Gavin-Headen, MD; Eduardo Godoy, MD; John Lee, MD; Lisa Montes, MD; Brent Ogawa, MD; Angie Sung, MD; Janet Williams, MD; and Yu-Fahn Yuen, MD; and Leslie Young, MD. Thank you as well to Barbara Kennedy, Administration, and her team for their work in helping to coordinate the program's activities.

To volunteer as a physician mentor for HCP's 2010 program, please contact Barbara Kennedy, Administration.