

HIPPOCRATES CIRCLE ADVANCES STUDENT CAREERS IN MEDICINE

March 2009

South Bay recently received top honors for our active support of the Hippocrates Circle Program (HCP), a Region-wide mentoring program that encourages students to pursue careers as physicians.

HCP at South Bay

Lisa Montes, MD, Pediatrics, Gardena Medical Offices was awarded Physician Champion of the Year during the January 23rd celebration in Pasadena. The recognition was presented by Southern California President Benjamin Chu, MD, MPH; Jeffrey Weisz, MD, Executive Medical Director; Ricardo Sistos, MD, Family Medicine, Glendale Medical Offices and HCP co-founder and Maria Carrasco, MD, Regional Physician Coordinator for Culturally Responsive Care. In addition to celebrating the work of other programs from throughout the Region, South Bay also had the highest number of nominees, including Cheryl Browne, MD, Physician Champion; Lucila Santos, Community Champion and Rosa Jimenez, Administrative Champion. In addition, Tiasha Robinson, a seventh grade health teacher at Curtiss Middle School in Carson was nominated for Community Champion.

As part of our local program, South Bay partners with Curtiss Middle School, a school which has a high number of both African-American and Latino students. During the four month program, students toured USC's Keck School of Medicine, learned more about financial aid during a workshop at California State University Dominguez Hills and visited several South Bay departments during a medical center tour. The HCP and Ambassador programs concluded with a graduation ceremony and dinner that re-affirmed the student's goal of pursuing a career as a physician. 45 students participated in last year's program.

HCP aims to diversify the physician population by strengthening the self-esteem of young people and providing the tools necessary for diverse middle school students to achieve a higher education in medicine. Established in 2000, HCP also strengthens KP's link to the communities we serve by supporting broader educational efforts that encourage diversity in higher medical education.

News & Events



As a complement to our program we also launched a Hippocrates Health Care Ambassadors Program, which teaches students how to make presentations to their peers about exercise and the importance of not smoking. Students also learn about good nutrition, including a soul food pyramid, tips for healthy eating with diabetes and healthy recipes.

Special thanks to each of the 2008 HCP physician mentors, including: Cheryl Browne, MD, Geriatric Medicine; Francine Bynum, MD, Maria Capaldo, MD, Holly Diep, MD, Eduardo Godoy, MD, Vanessa Gavin-Headen, MD, Ansumana Gebeh, MD, Shanaeya Nelson, MD, Lisa Montes, MD, Angie Sung, MD, and Yu-Fahn Yuen, MD.

Additional thanks to the Medical Center Administrative Team and to everyone who assisted in 2008, including: Fran Alexander, RN, Pam Ball, Lisa Clancy, Michiko Ishihara, Barbara Kennedy, Mariko Kobata, Juanita Murphy, Crystal Pitts, Ann Rush, and Jeff Weaver, RRT.

“The generous spirit of our physician mentors and staff volunteers gives HCP true meaning for the seventh and eighth grade students of our communities who now dream of becoming doctors someday,” says Bob Blair, medical group administrator.

To volunteer as a physician mentor or for more information about HCP’s 2009 program, please contact Barbara Kennedy, Administration