

## **SOUTH BAY HOSTS LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PROMOTE CAREERS IN MEDICINE**

**September 2007**

As part of Kaiser Permanente's commitment to building a diverse workforce, South Bay Medical Center is an active sponsor of the Hippocrates Circle Program, a youth mentoring program that encourages students to pursue careers as a physician. Through a number of collaborative educational activities, this region-wide program helps seventh and eighth grade students from under-represented and diverse backgrounds discover that a career as a physician is possible.

### **HCP at South Bay**

Established in 2000, the goal of the Hippocrates Circle Program is 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. The program also strengthens KP's link to the communities we serve by supporting broader educational efforts that encourage diversity in higher medical education.

As part of the four-month program, South Bay partners with Curtiss Middle School in Carson to give students an up-close view of the medical profession. The program kicks off with doctors sharing their experiences in becoming physicians. During the second session the students visit the South Bay Medical Center for a morning of observation and interaction with physicians. Students also tour USC's Keck School of Medicine, where they learn about the duties of being a medical student. At the conclusion of the program, students celebrate their graduation from the program during a ceremony held at the Carson Community Center.

"The Hippocrates Circle Program gives young people in our community a complete and structured overview of what it takes to become a physician," says Cheryl Browne, MD, Physician-in-Charge, Continuing Care and Hippocrates Circle Program Physician Champion at South Bay. "Our physician mentors make this program a success by selflessly volunteering their time and sharing personal experiences with students."

"We want Curtiss Middle School students to feel like members of the KP family," says Lisa Montes, MD, Pediatrics, Gardena. "The Hippocrates Circle Program is an exceptional opportunity to strengthen the self-esteem of our young people by empowering them to pursue their goal to become a physician."

This September, South Bay will again partner with Curtiss Middle School to sponsor a Hippocrates Circle class. To volunteer as a physician mentor or for more information, please contact Barbara Kennedy, Project Analyst, Administration.

# News & Events



Along with Dr. Browne and Dr. Montes, thank you to the following physicians for serving as volunteer mentors during the 2006 Hippocrates Circle Program: Jereme Butler, MD, Pediatrics, Yu-Fahn Yuen, MD, Dermatology, Jasmine Hayes-Adams, MD, Ophthalmology, Jo Anne Higa, MD, Ear, Nose and Throat, Russell Gill, MD, Ob/Gyn and Ada Onyeagocha, MD, Internal Medicine, all of South Bay and Douglas Carman, MD, Pediatrics, Gardena and Vanessa Gavin-Headen, MD, Family Medicine, Long Beach.