Doctors Academy students receive on-the-job training at KP Fresno

By Kerri M. Leedy, Media Relations Specialist
July 7, 2014

Students in the UCSF Fresno Doctors Academy program are accompanying Kaiser Permanente Fresno physicians and nurses during patient appointments, observing medical procedures, and learning about the healthcare profession this summer.

On June 23, ten Doctors Academy students from Sunnyside, Caruthers and Selma high schools began shadowing dermatologists, ophthalmologists, pediatricians, and other physicians and nurses.

The Doctors Academy is a program for students interested in health profession careers. The program, which started at Sunnyside High School, expanded to Caruthers and Selma high schools in the 2007-08 school year. KP Fresno has supported the Doctors Academy by providing more than $200,000 in grants.

Lanah Desumala, a senior at Sunnyside High School, said she hopes this program helps her decide whether she wants to pursue a career in plastic surgery or dermatology. She is working alongside Dana Detarman, NP, Dermatology.

"I'm really excited," Desumala said. "Hopefully, it will benefit me to have this experience."

Lorraine Lopez, MD, Pediatrics, has mentored Doctors Academy students for several years and said it is a very rewarding program – not just for the students, but for the physicians as well.

"I really love having the opportunity to talk with them and share my own personal story about how I became a doctor," Dr. Lopez said. "It's a great program and the students really learn a lot during a short amount of time."

Pathologist Sidney Carpenter, MD, explains how to view a blood sample under a microscope to Doctors Academy student Sergio Hernandez.

Doctors Academy student Yesenia Buenrostro helps Pediatrician Aimee Simbre, MD, exam a young patient in the Selma Medical Offices.