



UCSF Fresno
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HUNDREDS VIE TO BECOME VALLEY'S NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

UCSF Fresno Latino Center sponsors Medical Mania conference for students

FRESNO – The UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research will host its sixth annual Medical Mania event on Saturday, August 25 from 8 am to noon at the Satellite Student Union (2485 E. San Ramon) on the California State University, Fresno campus. This year's theme is "Medical Idol: The Search for the Valley's Doctors," which is a spin on the popular television show "American Idol."

Medical Mania, an event for students in the educational pipeline programs sponsored by the UCSF Fresno Latino Center, provides a forum for young people to explore careers in health and medicine. Hundreds of students, their parents, health professionals, and medical students and residents are expected to participate.

The event will kick off with a "Medical Idol" skit led by Sunnyside High School Doctors Academy alumni, which will feature mock contestants competing for medical school admission. Three new pipeline programs also will be announced. The rest of the morning will feature workshops, guest speakers, hands-on activities and interactive presentations on health careers, college preparation and medical school admissions.

Sessions include:

- "Public Health 93720," facilitated by the UC Berkeley School of Public Health
- "Disease Detectives," a medical investigation for middle school students led by pediatrician Cesar Vazquez
- "Any Given Sunday," a workshop on sports medicine careers by an NFL sideline physician
- "Aspiring Docs," featuring online resources for medical school-bound students provided by the American Association of Medical Colleges

Visual opportunities: "Medical Idol" skit; Reserve Officers' Training Corps nurse instructing students in nursing skills; panel of local physicians; parent and student workshops; Doctors Academy alumni in pink scrubs

(More)

Event Details:

- 8:00 AM **Registration, *Satellite Student Union***
- 8:30 AM **“Medical Idol: The Search for the Valley’s Doctors”**
Magnus Chann, Doctors Academy alumnus and Master of Ceremonies
- 9:00 AM **Welcome and Introduction of New Pipeline Programs**
Katherine A. Flores, MD, Director, UCSF Fresno Latino Center
- 9:15 AM **Conclusion of “Medical Idol” skit**
- 9:30 AM **Break**
- 9:45 – 10:30 AM **Workshops, *Science 2 building***
- 10:45 – 11:30 AM **Workshops, *Science 2 building***

For more information, please contact Cassandra Gomez at (559) 241-7673.

Background:

Located in Fresno, the Latino Center for Medical Education and Research is a unit of the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program. The Center addresses the serious shortage of Latino physicians and other health care professionals in the area. The mission of the Center is to develop individuals to become health care professionals who will ultimately return to the San Joaquin Valley to provide culturally competent health care services to the medically underserved. To accomplish its goal of increasing the number of Latino health care professionals in the area, the Center has created a strong educational pipeline within Fresno County public schools by recruiting, mentoring and tutoring educationally and economically disadvantaged students. UCSF Fresno Latino Center pipeline programs include the Junior Doctors Academy at Terronez, Sequoia, Kings Canyon and Washington Colony middle schools; Doctors Academy at Sunnyside, Caruthers and Selma high schools, and the Premedical and Health Scholars Program at Fresno State and Health Careers Opportunity Program at Fresno State.

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