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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DOCTORS ACADEMY STUDENTS FROM CARUTHERS, SELMA AND SUNNYSIDE HIGH SCHOOLS SHADOW LOCAL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

FRESNO – Tenth-grade students in the Doctors Academy programs at Caruthers, Selma and Sunnyside high schools will participate in the annual National Groundhog Job Shadow Day. During the month of February, students will follow health professionals for half a day at various healthcare facilities in Fresno and Selma.

Students will see firsthand the roles and responsibilities of health professionals. They also will learn about the issues and challenges associated with providing health care in the San Joaquin Valley. Eighty-seven students are expected to participate.

Students will follow health care professionals at the following locations:

- Adventist Health Community Hospital and Community Care Clinic
- Children's Hospital Central California
- Clinica Sierra Vista
- Community Medical Centers
- Kaiser Permanente, Fresno and Kaiser Permanente Selma Medical Office
- University Neurology Associates
- Waterhouse Animal Hospital

For more information, please contact:

- Caruthers High School: Orin Hirschhorn, principal, at 559-495-6415
- Selma High School: Mark Babiarz, principal, at 559-898-6550
- Sunnyside High School: Sheryl Weaver, principal, at 559-253-6710
- UCSF Fresno: Diana Cantu and Adriana Tafolla, academic program coordinators, at 559-241-7670

**Background:**

The UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research, in partnership with Fresno Unified School District and Fresno County Office of Education, started the Sunnyside High School Doctors Academy in 1999 as a pilot program to encourage disadvantaged students to focus on careers in health and medicine. In 2007, the Doctors Academy program was implemented at Caruthers High School and Selma High School.

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