This year, the UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research (LaCMER) Junior Doctors Academy (JDA) at Caruthers Elementary and Doctors Academy (DA) at Caruthers High School continued essential program components. Students completed cultural competency projects, enjoyed conversations with local medical providers, visited universities and health professional schools and began preparation for various summer programs. Additionally, they participated in volunteer opportunities and spring semester was wrapped up with an awards night for all program students.

On March 6, all DA students participated in the annual Kids Day event selling Fresno Bee newspapers to raise funds for Valley Children’s Hospital in Madera. Throughout the community of Caruthers, students sold newspapers to stores, stop signs and street corners. This year’s event raised over $600,000 throughout the Central Valley and the DA students were happy to make a difference through their active efforts.

Valentines for Vets

New efforts were made to encourage students to give back to their community through volunteer service. At the beginning of the school year, students were given the task to complete a minimum of 10 hours per semester or 20 hours per school year. In order to provide students with additional local opportunities, a volunteer fair was coordinated for DA students. Held on March 8 at the Caruthers High School gymnasium, a variety of different volunteer organizations were present including Fresno Veterans Affairs Hospital, United Health Centers, Valley Animal Shelter, Fresno Community Food Bank, Fresno County Public Libraries, West Fresno Community Center, among others.

Kids Day

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Donate to the Program
If you would like to learn more about donating to the Doctors Academy, please go to https://www.fresno.ucsf.edu/give/ (click on Latino Center DA/HCOP).

Website
https://www.fresno.ucsf.edu/latino-center-for-medical-education-and-research/

Facebook link:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/2217415563/
Health Professional Guest Speakers

Valley Health Team

On February 13, Valley Health Team Family Medicine residents Iveth Sandoval, MD, Chinenyenwa Anugwom, MD, and Ramneek Kalsi, MD, visited JDA eighth grade. Students enjoyed learning how to use insulin monitors to measure blood sugar levels and practiced administering epinephrine injections using injection models.

“Stop the Bleed”

Orthopedic Surgery

On March 7, Sergio Ilic, MD and his rotating resident physician visited ninth grade DA students to talk about his journey to becoming an orthopedic surgeon. Dr. Ilic shared several orthopedic surgery tools, as well as human bones that students were able to work with. He also shared personal advice for students interested in pursuing a health career and the steps to achieve this dream.

LaCMER Director Visit

On April 24, CRMC Trauma Center continued their endeavor to provide bleeding control training to the residents of the Central Valley. They visited JDA students at Caruthers Elementary where nearly 50 students participated in the hands on training and the opportunity to work closely with local health professionals. To date, CRMC Trauma Center has trained over 400 students, staff and parents from the UCSF Fresno JDA and DA programs.

Dentistry

On May 14, JDA seventh grade students were visited by local Caruthers dentist, Paul Hoa, DDS, MHP, JD. Students completed a medical education unit on dental health in preparation for Dr. Hsiao’s visit. Dr. Hsiao talked to students about his journey to becoming a dentist and students were amazed by how he integrated being a lawyer with being a dental provider. He also reviewed the importance of dental care and serving underserved communities like Caruthers.

Perinatology

On May 15, JDA seventh grade and DA seniors were visited by David Abel, MD, who talked about the field of perinatology and his journey to medicine. He reviewed fetal development and discussed several real life medical cases with the students. His interactive presentation and high energy kept students interested and asking questions.

Rheumatology

On May 3, Candice Reyes, MD visited the DA sophomore class. Dr. Reyes introduced students to the field of rheumatology and reviewed autoimmune diseases like lupus and rheumatoid arthritis. She discussed with students how to use laparoscopic surgery instruments. They also got to meet with current surgery residents who talked about their journey to medicine. The trip was complemented with a visit to Stanford University where students met with Alvia Shorter, Director of Diversity and Outreach who reviewed the different health school programs offered by Stanford University, including the Stanford Medical Youth Science Program (SMYSP). In addition, students met with current Stanford undergraduates and got a campus tour.

UC Merced and VA Central California Health Care System

On March 19, DA freshmen students visited UC Merced where they were welcomed by visitor center staff and taken on a tour of the University of California’s newest campus. Additionally, they received an admissions presentation by Lizbeth Lupi, Visitors Center Coordinator. Lunch was generously sponsored for the students by the UC Merced Office of Admissions in the UC Merced Yablokoff-Wallace Dining Center where they experienced college campus dining. Students completed their afternoon with a visit to VA Central California Health Care System. They were escorted on a tour of the hospital by Mary Golden, Voluntary Service Program Manager and Caruthers High alumna. They were able to learn about the rich history and the medical services offered at the VA Central California Health Care System for veterans and their families. Students finished their day with a health professional panel led by VA employees.

UCSF School of Medicine

On April 5, 69 DA seniors from Caruthers, Selma and Sunnyside high schools were invited to visit UCSF School of Medicine. During the annual end-of-year visit, students were treated to an anatomic pathology lab led by Dr. Henry Sanchez where students examined human organs from several body systems. DA students had the opportunity to meet with current UCSF students from several different graduate schools including the School of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Post-Baccalaureate Program. A huge thank you to Latasha Mitchell and Valerie Margol for their continued support in helping to coordinate this event.

Special Thanks

A special thank you to all our supporters and funders who have made these opportunities possible for our Caruthers Unified JDA and DA students. The program supporters include Caruthers Unified School District, University of California, San Francisco, California Wellness Foundation, The California Endowment, among many more.

Study Trips

UC Davis and UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

On April 9, DA juniors visited UC Davis where they toured the campus complemented with a presentation by the UC Davis Office of Admissions. The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), which serves first generation, low-income students undergraduates at UC Davis talked to students about the services offered. EOP focuses on accomplishing higher retention and graduation rates of underserved students. Students completed their day at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine where they met with veterinary students and were offered an up close and personal tour of the hospital and training facilities.

UC Santa Cruz and Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

On April 17, JDA eighth grade students visited UC Santa Cruz. Students were led on a tour of the picturesque school surrounded by redwood trees and local wildlife. Students met with pre-health students from Kappa Gamma Delta and Sigma Mu Delta where they talked about student life, getting admitted, and living near the beach. Students ended their day at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History and Seabright Beach where they performed pH experiments on the connecting river and ocean.

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On April 12, Katherine Flores, MD, UCSF Fresno LaCMER Director, met with JDA and DA students at Caruthers Elementary and High School. She talked to students about the history of the program and the importance of the JDA and DA program in accomplishing the goal of diversifying and filling the need for health professionals in the San Joaquin Valley.