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Health Professions in the 21st Century: Explore Your Options

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Health Professions in the 21st Century: Explore Your Options

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Hosted by the Premedical/Predental Advisory, Illinois Wesleyan University Career Center and School of Nursing, the first Health Professions Summer Program will be July 7-10 at IWU.

The program titled "Health Professions in the 21st Century: Explore Your Options," is for junior and senior high school students selected from six states contiguous with the state of Illinois.

"There has been a general decline in interests in the health fields, including nursing, medicine and pharmacy. The purpose of this program is to generate interest in these professions," said Donna Hartweg, director of the IWU School of Nursing. "There is a terrible nursing shortage now, and last year there was a 6 percent decline in the number of applications to medical schools. There also is a need for pharmacists, radiologists and health-care workers to care for the elderly."

There will be three keynote speakers, who will share their career experiences with the students-- Les Mathers, chief medical officer at Carle Clinic in Normal, Ill., who has a background in finance, and also is a farmer; Kathryn Bone, who is an Emergency department physician at BroMenn Healthcare and St. Joseph's Medical Center, who started her career as a teacher and later became a physician. Bone, according to Hartweg, works against family violence and spearheaded the movement in the community to get abuse policies in place for hospital emergency departments. Also speaking will be Dana DeShon, a 1991 graduate of IWU, who has worked with HIV/AIDS children, is now a pediatric nurse practitioner at Morton Healthcare in Morton, Ill.

There will also be two health panels--a panel discussion on careers in medicine, sports-medicine, optometry, pharmacy, nurse/practitioner and nurse midwifery and a panel discussion on careers in physical therapy, dentistry, neuroscience, nurse anesthesia, forensics, and physician assistants as well as small group discussions.

The students will then have the opportunity to explore two careers of their choice and spend one half day each with professionals in the workplace and later meet in a small group format to discuss their health care experiences in the program.

"We're planning 80 clinical experiences for one day in the region and have had a wonderful response from the community," said Hartweg.

The closing speaker for the session will be Dale Strasshein, president of BroMenn Healthcare, who will address projected future demands in the health care field such as the impact of genetics, and technology.

