

2007 NCAC Exemplary Partnership Award Recipient The Academy of BioMedical Professions

The Exemplary Partnership Award from the National Career Academy Coalition is given to “*the organization or governing Board that exemplifies a true working partnership between the school and its business partners. A partnership is defined as a relationship in which the school and the partners have collectively addressed concerns, solved problems, or created positive solutions and outcomes for the academy.*”

The relationship between the Academy of BioMedical Professions at R. L. Turner HS in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD and its Advisory Board truly exemplifies partnership at its best. The mission of the Academy is to “instruct students in all aspects of health-related careers while maintaining a comprehensive high school education and to prepare students for their place in an ever-changing world they will inherit: a world of health and human service.” The mission of the Advisory board is “to form a network of opportunities and to provide input and direction to the Academy in order to provide our students with appropriate curriculum, valuable experiences, and real-world applications that will prepare them for the world-of-work.”

The Academy began in the fall of 1998 and has a current enrollment of 200 students, freshmen through seniors, who have made a commitment to a challenging curriculum in the areas of allied health, professional, and biotechnology professions. The school learning environment is a combination of classroom and laboratory experiences along with research and field study opportunities that include clinical rotations, mentoring, and certifications in Emergency Medical Technician Basic (EMT), First Aid, CPR, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Veterinary Medical Assistant.

Board members represent the following areas of biomedical professions: agricultural science, biomedical engineering, biomedical research, biotechnology, business liaison, community support for healthcare programs, dentistry, Emergency Medical Services, health careers education, hospital administration, nursing, optometry, patient care services, physician, pharmacology, and veterinary medicine. Post secondary education representatives are from the colleges within the following universities that offer degrees necessary for the above careers. They include Brookhaven College (EMT, Radiology, Nursing careers), Cedar Valley College (pre-vet), Southern Methodist University (pre-med), Texas A&M University (pre-med and pre-vet), and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas (allied health careers of EMT, prosthetist, orthotist, lab technician, medical illustrator, nutrition, etc.).

Students are exposed to real-world settings that would not be possible without the support of the board. Board members either serve in the following experiences or help find a source: *One-year clinical rotations and summer internships* that provide a real-world setting that compliments their field of interest. Placements are available in selected departments of hospitals, pharmacies, optometry, veterinary clinics, agricultural and medical research facilities, and biomedical engineering firms. Board members provide valuable help facilitating the required paperwork, contracts, HIPAA requirements, etc; *Annual Career Investigation Days* in which career professionals meet with groups of 8-10 students at a time answering detailed questions about their careers, required education, and expectations; *College Career Nights* where Academy students and parents meet with our board’s post-secondary representatives to learn about degrees offered for their career of interest; *Speakers* to classes; *Field Trips* to hospitals where Academy students tour areas that some employees have never seen and entrance to medical conventions in Dallas.

Board meetings are held at least once a year, no more than two. The board is asked for “time not money” to educate students about the world of work. However members have acquired or donated equipment for the program’s on-site clinic, paid for textbooks, and awarded grant monies. They provide valuable input to curriculum suggesting sequence of courses, providing instructors for the courses, as well as dual credit. Board members provide solutions to problems – the Academy hosted an Area Conference for HOSA and a board member provided the names of 100 judges.

The Advisory Board has helped put the Academy of Bio-Medical Professions “on the map.” Students have moved from out of state into C-FB ISD as well as into the Turner attendance zone in order to attend this program. These real world experiences made possible by the commitment of the board puts this program above the rest.

Nominated by Patti O'Connell, Consultant, O'Connell Consulting, Advisory Board Member

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