



New York State
Area Health Education
Center System

UPDATE

Catskill Hudson AHEC and SUNY New Paltz Collaborate Efforts for STEP

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Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) recently collaborated with the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) of SUNY New Paltz to join forces toward enhancing academic skills of underrepresented, low-income students from local high schools and encourage them to continue their education after graduation in the fields of math, science, technology, and the licensed professions.

STEP challenges students' existing skills, develops new ones, and provides motivation and practical assistance to participants in setting and meeting their educational goals. STEP and C-STEP

(Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program) provide a means for at-risk students to achieve educational stability through encouragement, development and achievement.

CHAHEC recognized this collaborative opportunity as a gateway to introduce students to various health occupations through CHAHEC programs. The first STEP Academy collaboration was held on October 17 at the SUNY New Paltz campus. A total of seventy-seven ninth through twelfth grade students were exposed to four assorted lessons from Exploring the Health Professions and two thought-provoking sessions of Who Done It? Solve the Medical Mystery.

Modules from Exploring the Health Professions included "In the Operating Room" and "In the Lab." CHAHEC also provided a highly engaging family physician guest speaker. Dr. Reed's presentation was followed by a Q&A session with students. Students inquired about a range of topics, including: the impact that this type of profession has on a physician's private life; how to choose educational financing; and updates on current events, such as the H1N1 Virus. Discussions were also raised on the value and availability of student shadowing opportunities and

*See **STEP**
continued on page 4*

STEP

(continued from front page)

internships. The dialogue between he and the students became so captivating that the 45 minute presentation allotment passed before all questions could be answered.

CHAHEC's goal is to expand the collaboration to other STEP and C-STEP (college grade) programs throughout the 11-county region. For additional information on SUNY New Paltz STEP and C-STEP programs, please contact Lenore Schulte at (845) 257-2767. For information on CHAHEC, please visit www.chahec.org.