



Catskill Hudson AHEC and SUNY New Paltz Collaborate Efforts for the STEP Program

By: Katherine Doyle

Catskill Hudson AHEC recently formed a collaboration 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. The STEP Program challenges students' existing skills, develops new ones, and provides motivation and practical assistance to participants in setting and meeting their educational goals. The STEP and C-STEP programs provide a means for at-risk students to achieve educational stability through encouragement, development and achievement.



Catskill Hudson AHEC recognized this collaborative opportunity as a gateway to introduce students to various health occupations through our programs. To date, Catskill Hudson AHEC has participated in three STEP programs. Our first STEP Academy collaboration was held on October 17th on the SUNY New Paltz campus. A total of seventy-seven 9th through 12th 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". Catskill Hudson AHEC 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 internships. The dialogue between he and the students became so captivating that the 45 minute presentation allotment passed before all questions could be answered.

Catskill Hudson AHEC's goal is to expand our collaboration to other STEP and C-STEP (college grade) programs throughout our 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 Catskill Hudson AHEC and our programs, please visit our website at www.chahec.org.

