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Career in medicine students receive hands-on training

By USAMEDDAC Public Affairs



Twelve middle-school students from The Colorado Springs School visited Evans Army Community Hospital on March 4 for a firsthand Army medicine experience.

The Fort Carson visit was part of the school's annual 4-day out-of-the-classroom career seminar.

"This seminar has had quite an impact on the students," said CSS Academic Dean Eric Gaylord. "The EACH staff worked side by side with the students in our CSS Careers in Medicine Seminar teaching and showing them what it is like to work in various medical fields. This is the kind of experience that can change the trajectory of a student's life."

Students interested in medical careers opted for the Career in Medicine Seminar, which explores a wide variety of medical fields ranging from emergency medicine and CPR certification to radiology, eastern medicine, cardiology, pathology, orthopedics, morgue work, surgery and O.R. procedures, oncology, and dentistry.

"It is always a pleasure to see students that have such a keen interest in medicine," said Col. Irene Rosen, Evans' deputy commanding officer. "I am glad that Evans was able to support our community by partnering with the school and be part of this fantastic learning experience."

While at Evans the prospective healthcare providers tried their hands at closing wounds by suturing chicken breasts. They also visited an operating room where they were shown how patients are intubated, learned about x-rays from Radiology technicians, operated the daVinci robotic surgical system, and they were given a class on how casts are made. Students kept their casts as souvenirs.

"The visit to Evans was incredible. From the students' hands-on experience with the daVinci surgical robot to using needle drivers with authentic suture needles," Gaylord said. "In four, action-packed hours at Fort Carson,

students learned more about real-world medicine than many people learn in an entire lifetime.”



The Colorado Springs School Academic Dean Eric Gaylord watches his students suture chicken breasts during a visit at Evans Army Community Hospital. Photo by Jeff Troth



Lt. Col. Dennis Turner shows students patients are intubated prior to a surgery. Photo by Jeff Troth



Private 1st Class Nicholas Sirak, an X-ray technician, shows the CSS students how to properly line up the X-ray machine to get a clean image. Photo by Jeff Troth