



HOSA

A Pipeline for Future Health Care Professionals

*Submitted by: Melba Lee, M.Ed.
Connecticut HOSA State Advisor*



HOSA is now in the state of Connecticut!

The Connecticut State Department of DOE (Department of Education) and the Connecticut AHEC (Area Health Education Center) Program combined their resources to create a new vehicle for the pipeline to create future health care professionals in Connecticut. HOSA is a national student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Technology Education Division of ACTE (Association of Career and Technical Education). HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition for secondary and post-secondary students interested in health careers. The HOSA mission is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality

HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition for secondary and post-secondary students interested in health careers

health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development for all Health Science/Health Occupations Education students.

The Connecticut AHEC Program introduced the HOSA program to the Connecticut State DOE as a proven, nationally recognized venue that provides students with unique opportunities to enhance their knowledge, skills and abilities to succeed in pursuing a career in the health professions. With a limited number of high school students preparing to enter the health professions and the severe personnel shortages occurring throughout the health industry, both the DOE and the AHEC Program agreed that HOSA provides academic, experiential and leadership skills to enhance existing curricula. The National HOSA office recognized Connecticut in May 2005, and presented Connecticut with the Official Charter at the opening ceremony of the National HOSA Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on June 22, 2005. Melba Lee, Health Careers Coordinator from Southwestern AHEC, and 26 CT HOSA members and advisors were present to accept this distinction. Southwestern AHEC currently serves as the contact for CT HOSA, with Melba Lee serving as the State Advisor.

The first Connecticut HOSA informational meeting was held on November 15, 2005 at the Connecticut Hospital Association in Wallingford. The meeting attracted 50 teachers, guidance counselors, school to career coordinators and HOSA students, from the following schools: Shelton High School, Branford High School, Bulkeley High School, H.C. Wilcox, Maloney High School, East Haven High School, Enlightenment High School, Ledyard Public School, Warren Harding High School, Sports and Medical Science Academy, Hamden High School, Westhill High School, Norwich Technical School, Eli Whitney Technical School, Wallingford Board of Education, Hill Regional Career High School, J.M. Wright Technical School, Griswold High School, Central High School and Watertown High School. The meeting featured presentations by HOSA members from Maloney, Harding and Career High Schools, and superb advice and expertise from Linda Liang, LMA/CAM and Linda Cutler, RN, MS, CGA, from the New Hampshire HOSA State Association.

As a result of the meeting, attendees have developed HOSA chapters as part of their medical careers class or as an after school student organization at the following schools:

- Warren Harding High School, Bridgeport
- Central High School, Bridgeport
- Hill Regional Career High School, New Haven
- Maloney High School, Meriden
- East Haven High School, East Haven
- Westhill High School, Stamford
- Watertown High School, Watertown.

SAVE the DATE!!!

On April 12, 2006 Connecticut HOSA will hold our first Leadership State Conference at Sacred Heart University. This conference will promote an awareness of opportunities in the health care professions through workshops and competitive events. For more information regarding the conference please contact Connecticut's State HOSA Advisor: Melba Lee, 203-372-5503, mlee@swctahec.org, or your local AHEC Health Careers Coordinator. Contact information for your AHEC Health Careers Coordinator can be found on the following website: www.ctahec.com