

ILLINOIS

TAP LOCAL RESOURCES

Excerpt from the Chicago Tribune Sunday Career Builders section.

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Tap the resources in local high schools. Some high schools offer chapters of the Health Occupation Students of America, a career and technical student organization. The Career Center on HOSA's website (http://www.hosa.org/career/career_center.html) provides local contacts, career profiles, college listings, tools for selecting a health career, and much more.

Nearly a dozen public high schools in Chicago offer health career tracks within the Education to Careers Program (<http://www.etchicago.com/about.asp>), which combines academic curriculum with training in career and technical subjects and helps students develop workplace skills. Guidance counselors and science or math faculty advisors often know about other resources, programs and opportunities.

NEW YORK

PROVIDING OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

New York State HOSA is actively working to increase the number of chapter across the State. This year we offered a scholarship for any new school to send one advisor and two students to our Spring Conference in Syracuse to see, first hand, what HOSA is all about! For the past few years, this practice has resulted in at least one new chapter each year.

At our Spring Competitive Events Conference in April, we expanded our focus to include community service activities to support efforts such as the Tsunami Relief project and a women's shelter in the city in which the conference will be held. Donations of money and personal care items were brought to the meeting and forwarded to these two very worthwhile causes.

Our guest speaker at this year's conference focused on motivating students to develop goals and stick with them as they proceed through high school and their postsecondary education programs. The new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Policy, implemented by the New York State Board of Regents requires approved CTE programs to develop articulation agreements with two and four year colleges that will allow the students to earn college credits while pursuing a CTE program in high school.

While our Spring Conference will center around the competitive events, our Fall Leadership Workshop, which was held in Albany, emphasized citizenship and

community service. We were fortunate to be able to take all attendees to the New York State Capitol for a guided tour. In the past, we have been able to see our legislature in session. Students learn about their government and supplement what they learn in their 12th grade core course entitled Participation in Government. Students who are especially active in their HOSA chapter and meet a rigorous set of guidelines, above and beyond the level of most students' participation in student leadership organizations, can receive credit for this social studies course through active HOSA participation.

We have been fortunate for the past two years to have active support from the regional Area Health Education Center (AHEC) offices that have helped with our funding with awards and provided scholarships for students to attend the competitive events conference. They have also given generously of their time and expertise to serve as judges for some of the events. This AHEC/HOE collaboration extends the cooperative efforts going on with the state/regional AHEC offices and the State Education Department in the development of resource materials for teachers and students. We are very grateful for their help!

HOSA continues to thrive and provide outstanding leadership opportunities for students in New York State!

