

# The Future of Health Care



By Joel Arvizo, National HOSA President



**H**ave you ever sat and pondered your future? Have you ever wondered where life would take you? You have considered health care and are now working towards your ultimate goals in life. How are you going to get there? What resources are available to you as a future health care professional? Your major resource is the Health Occupations Students of America.

Headlines and concerns are focused around the health care shortage and its effects on American hospitals and clinics. People all around the nation are looking for a solution. What some don't realize is that there are nearly 70,000 solutions to be found all across this nation. These solutions are the members of HOSA! The HOSA organization is working hard to be seen as the pipeline to the health care shortage. HOSA is the solution and this organization is ready for a year dedicated to providing our members with all the necessary skills to enter the health care industry, in its time of need, with the highest of preparation and confidence. HOSA members from all across this nation will be filling the void that the health care industry is so struggling with.

This year will hold promise for encouraging our members to enter the health care field. National HOSA Week is a great place to begin by planning projects and activities that encourage community involvement with our great organization. The purpose of HOSA week is to allow health occupations students to truly become contributing members of their community by playing an active role within the community. Let others know about the great benefits of this organization by showing them. Allow citizens, business people, health care professionals, peers, family members, and everyone know that the members of HOSA are here to make a difference in the future of health care. HOSA week is a time to allow all to become active in the mission of HOSA.

This year also holds promise as the partnership with the American Cancer Society begins to flourish. First hand knowledge and experience are what potential employers are looking for. What better way to get your one on one experience than with the American Cancer Society. You will have endless opportunities to work with cancer patients and learn about their struggles and their worries. You also have the opportunity to serve an organization that is on the cutting edge of technological research for the fight against cancer. These life experiences will

give you the upper hand in your career seeking and boost your overall success.

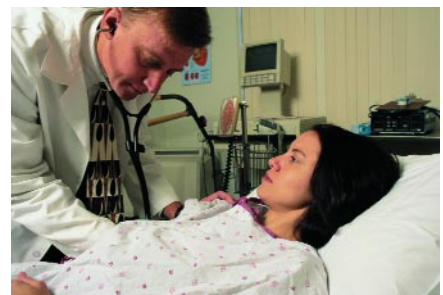
As you can see, HOSA has an exciting year planned and the National Executive Council is ready and willing to serve the HOSA Organization and all of its members. We are dedicated to increasing the awareness of HOSA within our communities, we are motivated in building a strong foundation with the American Cancer Society, and we are determined to share our passion for HOSA with everyone we come in contact with. As the National Executive Council works hard this year we keep in mind our team quote.

*"He who would really benefit mankind, must reach them through their work."*

—Henry Ford

We encourage you, HOSA members nationwide, to reach others through your work. Become involved and participate in all that HOSA has to offer. By doing so, you will have the best preparation for anything that may come along your way. If you are passionate about your work, others can do nothing but follow in your footsteps; if you continually work hard towards your goals and aspirations in life, then others can do nothing but follow in your footsteps; and if you connect with and reach out to the people within your community, others can do nothing but follow in your footsteps.

The National Executive Council looks forward to a grand and inspiring year. We encourage you to become involved in all that HOSA has to offer. We wish you the best of luck this year and look forward to seeing you in Atlanta, Georgia for the 26th Annual National Leadership Conference of HOSA.



# ANOTHER KIND OF PREPARATION: Leadership in the Health Care Field

By Adam Prim, National HOSA President-Elect

For the past 27 years, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) has been committed to enhancing the quality of education in the Health Occupations Education Curriculum. HOSA offers curricular enhancement; it yields a stepping stone towards experience in leadership, which in the competitive job market of today is an essential quality. Whether it is administration, nursing, medicine, or technology; every department has a call for leadership in one way or another.

But what kinds of leadership positions in healthcare are available to fit your interests? If you are more interested in a business or management aspect of healthcare, there are numerous positions that are available to you. Hospital administration and management is a fast growing field of interest among young people today. This type of education can head you towards CEO and supervisor positions in endless healthcare institutions, although it's not limited to just that. Numerous physicians and nurses are pursuing supplementary education in business administration to improve their understanding of business concepts. These individuals will be the ones that advance in the field into higher ranking, higher paying positions.

Colleges and Universities are catching on to this trend and developing programs for this sort of higher education pursuit. The University of Texas offers Certification in Business Administration for Physicians and Administrators that provide physician leaders with basic business skills making them more versatile in the healthcare community. Likewise, The University of Tennessee offers a Physician Executive MBA program enhancing the familiarity of business for the healthcare executive. The program focuses on developing leadership skills as well as an overview of business administration. These certification programs are growing in popularity and before long, the competition to be accepted to them will be even steeper; those who already have exposure to leadership concepts will have an upper hand in the selection process.

Taking this into consideration, HOSA has developed numerous ways for you, as a student and member, to gain knowledge and experience in the area of leadership. On a local level, members have the chance to experience first hand the responsibility and skill it takes to plan and organize local events for their chapter. Chapter officers, committee members, and active members all play a part in keeping the organization afloat, and get a taste of how responsibility feels. Those members who want to take the next step in fine tuning their leadership skills are given the opportunity to serve their state association of HOSA. These fine individuals are not only responsible for their local chapters, but their state as well. They dedicate their time to upholding the bond between local and national HOSA, as well as developing and heading their State Leadership Conferences. As young adults beginning their journeys towards a career, this type of experience is sure to prepare them for many of life's challenges. Members who wish to go the distance have the choice to apply for candidacy to national office. These individuals undertake a great responsibility in representing almost 70,000 members across the nation. They work hard in sustaining and gaining national sponsors for HOSA to form partnerships with, helping publicize the benefits of our national mission statement. As national officers, these students sit on committees, travel to conferences across the nation, and help make decisions concerning the national organization. The commitment is vast, yet it compares nothing to the knowledge and experience gained during a term of office, and beyond.

Collectively, the students and associates make up the thousands of members that all play a vital part of keeping HOSA on the top of its game. It takes a strong individual to make such a commitment as an active member in a co-curricular organization such as HOSA, and these individuals will certainly be the future of the healthcare industry whether they are a technicians, doctors, or hospital CEOs. The members make HOSA a shining example of the potential of students today and will lead it into a bright and promising tomorrow.

