

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.

