

HOSA CAREER SPOTLIGHT



Women in Medicine

By Tyler Webster: National
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The medical profession is constantly changing in technology, pharmaceutical research, and knowledge. However, one of the most noticeable differences in medicine over the past 150 years has been pleasantly surprising...an increasing number of women in healthcare. Women have had an incredible impact on medicine over the past years since the first woman, Elizabeth Blackwell, was admitted into medical school in the United States 150 years ago.



Since Dr. Blackwell's triumph, there has been a dramatic rise in the amount of female physicians and researchers in the United States. The AMA has reported that, at the change of the millennium, 22.8% of physicians in the United States were women, and 45.6% of the entrants into medical schools throughout the nation are women. It is safe to say that the drive and motivation of female medical students toward becoming medical professionals is steadily increasing.

On an organizational note, at HOSA both state and national HOSA conferences, it is easy to see that women make up a majority of the competitors. Does the future of healthcare lie in the hands of women? Some believe so, but others still see a steady future for men in the occupation as well.

Overall, the future for women in medicine is strong. Gone are the days of sexual discrimination in the medical field. Today there is equal opportunity for both sexes. It is important, however for women to remember the great fight that allowed them to pry open the doors of discrimination into this exciting field. A pioneer in this fight, Mary Mergler, wrote in 1896, "No woman studying medicine today will ever know how much it has cost the individuals personally concerned in bringing about these changes; how eagerly they have watched new developments and mourned each defeat and rejoiced with each success. For with them it meant much more than success or failure for the individual, it meant the failure or success of a grand cause."



<http://www.mommd.com/lookingback.shtml>
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