

## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS SPOTLIGHT

The Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) is a national student-based nonprofit organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Technology Education Division of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE). HOSA has more than 80,000 members in 2,500 secondary and postsecondary chapters in 44 chartered state associations nationwide. Its mission is to promote career opportunities in the health professions and to enhance the delivery of quality healthcare.

In fact, HOSA is the only student organization addressing the nation's healthcare workforce shortage by promoting career opportunities in the health professions in elementary, middle school and secondary educational institutions. HOSA is committed to building a pipeline through which a continuous flow of qualified students will enroll in Health Science Technology Education programs and participate in HOSA chapters. Since 1976, HOSA has recruited, developed and encouraged more than 1.2 million students to pursue a career in the health professions. The HOSA, Inc. Board Chair, Sandra Parker (MS) stated, "Our goal is to double HOSA membership by 2010 by encouraging our HOSA chapters to provide unique opportunities for HOSA members to seek opportunities for personal and professional growth to enhance their Health Science classroom experiences."

In this post 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina world, HOSA has encouraged its 2,500 chapters to partner with local community-based organizations. There are considerable examples of HOSA members being first responders in emergencies given the healthcare skills developed in Health Science Technology Education programs and the skills developed in leading and participating in student-led HOSA projects and activities. Numerous HOSA members volunteered in their respective communities impacted by hurricanes last year.

"Because of our HOSA members and chapter advisors' strong desire to be an active participant in emergency preparedness in local communities, we believe there could be a synergistic relationship between HOSA and the Medical Reserve Corps resulting in providing trained volunteers to compliment the impressive work by MRC across the country," expressed Dr. Jim Koeninger, Executive Director.

HOSA chapters are active within their communities on a volunteer basis, addressing priority issues of the Surgeon General such as improving health literacy and increasing disease prevention.

For more information, please visit the HOSA Web site at [www.hosa.org](http://www.hosa.org) or email [hosa@hosa.org](mailto:hosa@hosa.org).

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