

## Partnerships Key in Planning for NLC 2010

By Jan Mould

One of HOSA's challenges each year is in finding the best possible clinical sites for skill events at the HOSA National Leadership Conference. As the Chairman for the Health Professions events, I had the opportunity to travel to Orlando, Florida in October, and take a look around at what facilities and opportunities the area has to offer for HOSA competitors.

When looking for clinical event sites, we take a look at many factors. Our number one consideration is in offering a "national" caliber event experience. We know we can simulate any of our events in a hotel meeting room, but we prefer to raise the bar whenever possible by offering dynamic competitive scenarios in a realistic clinical setting.

For HOSA, establishing partnerships with local healthcare agencies and educational institutions is critical to our success. Creating partnerships is essential at the HOSA chapter level when it comes to preparing HOSA members for skill events. Our national partners give HOSA a sense of perspective that improves our ability to prepare students to pursue health professions through the HOSA pipeline.

The first potential partner we visited was Dr. Louise N. Pitts, Dean, Health Sciences, at Valencia Community College. Valencia Community College was a strong partner for HOSA at NLC 2007 and fortunately for us, they are welcoming us back for NLC 2010! In addition to the West Campus facilities, HOSA will also be using the nursing lab and adjacent classrooms at the Osceola campus. <http://www.valenciaccc.edu/west/health/>



Valencia opened up a state-of-the-art Dental Hygiene Clinic in 2009, which promises to offer the best possible facilities for the HOSA Dental Assisting event at NLC 2010.

As part of our efforts to find new and exciting clinical sites, we traveled to the Conservation Station at Disney's Animal Kingdom at Walt Disney World – just a few miles from

HOSA's convention hotel. With more than 1,700 animals from 250 species, Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park keeps a team of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and host of medical professionals VERY busy.

Conservation Station includes a number of educational exhibits that showcase the care, feeding and health of wild animals. The highlight for HOSA members is a surgical suite with a wall-to-ceiling window that permits guests to watch animal health screening and sometimes, special procedures. We were lucky because we had an opportunity to watch a tiger have a root canal.



In this photo, Dr. Mark Stetter, DVM, Director of Animal Health at Disney's Animal Kingdom, is explaining the procedure to be performed by a visiting veterinarian who specializes in the dental care of exotic animals.

And this is a close-up of the tiger during the actual procedure, taken from behind the glass in the public viewing area. A sleeping tiger is a beautiful animal – and the operation was a success!



For more information on Conservation Station, go to <http://disneyworld.disney.go.com/parks/animal-kingdom/attractions/conservation-station/>

We will continue to develop partnerships and look for the best possible clinical event sites for HOSA members. While nothing has been confirmed yet, don't be surprised if NLC 2010 brings unique competitive experiences for HOSA members – with a little bit of magic sprinkled in.

**See you in Orlando for an exciting NLC!**

About the author: Jan Mould is the HOSA advisor and a Health Science teacher at Science Hill High School in Tennessee. She is a member of the National HOSA Competitive Events Leadership team and currently serves as the Chairman of the Health Professions events.