



# ADOLESCENT CAREER MENTORING INITIATIVES

## SUMMARY

Educating high school students has been a priority for St. Luke's Hospital for the last 18 years. St. Luke's Hospital has partnered with the Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (LVWIB), Bethlehem Area School District and Allentown School District to provide career mentoring programs and healthcare work experiences for in-school and out-of-school youth in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. The initiatives include the School-To-Work Program, Health Career Exploration Program and CareerLinking Academic.

**SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM (STW):** For the past eighteen years, St. Luke's Hospital and the Bethlehem Area School District have been collaborating to provide English as a Second Language students the opportunity to explore healthcare careers through the School-To-Work Program (STW). Its intent is to engage at-risk students to remain in school by exposing them to health careers at St. Luke's Hospital, to offer support and guidance as they work to achieve fluency in English, and to obtain valuable career and life skills.

**HEALTH CAREER EXPLORATION:** As a result of the success of the School-To-Work Program, St. Luke's collaborated with the LVWIB to develop the Health Career Exploration Program in 2005. The Health Career Exploration Program was created to assist high school students in developing achievable career and educational goals. Through subsidized work experience at St. Luke's, students have the opportunity to develop valuable career skills in a supportive environment that emphasizes a commitment to academics. Health care professionals serve as mentors, offering direction to students interested in exploring health careers.

**CAREERLINKING ACADEMY:** Funded by the Lehigh Valley Business/Education Partnership, CareerLinking combines observational learning experiences and professional development sessions focusing on exposure to health care careers with job readiness skills training. This program targets the Allentown School District.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- During the academic year 2014-2015, the School-To-Work Program served sixteen students from the Bethlehem Area School District at Liberty High School in Northampton County. Since inception, the program has served 265 students.
- Mr. Antonio Marrero, our STW science teacher has retired after 30 years of service at the Bethlehem Area School District. St. Luke's would like to thank Mr. Marrero for his commitment and dedication to the STW program for the past 18 years.
- STW participants visited/rotated 31 departments at St. Luke's Hospital. The students were also able to visit the St. Luke's Rodale Institute Organic Farm, Connell Funeral Home and Northampton Community College.
- During the academic year 2014-2015, the Health Career Exploration Program served twenty students from the Bethlehem Area School District. Since its inception, the program has served 131 students.
- For the work experience component of the program, St. Luke's Hospital collaborated with 13 departments or facilities associated with the hospital. Students had the opportunity to interact with various professionals including nurses, doctors, pharmacy technicians, managers, hospital administrators, support staff, etc. The HCEP students were able to work in the following departments.
- The students had the opportunity to attend a Business Etiquette breakfast at Northampton Country Club.
- In collaboration with the East central PA Area Health Education Center, 10 students in the Health Career Exploration Program were trained as Community Health Workers.
- 14 students from the Allentown School District enrolled in the CareerLinking Academy. Eight of these students were from Louis E. Dieruff High School and six were from William Allen High School. Program components included professional development sessions, educational field trips/presentations and leadership development in the healthcare field.



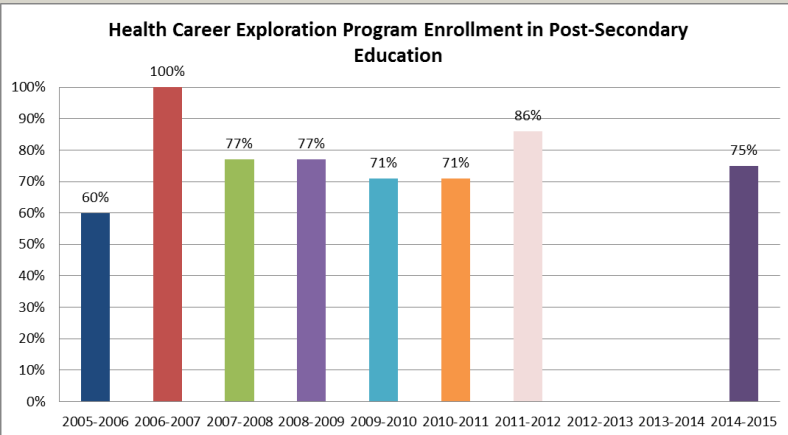
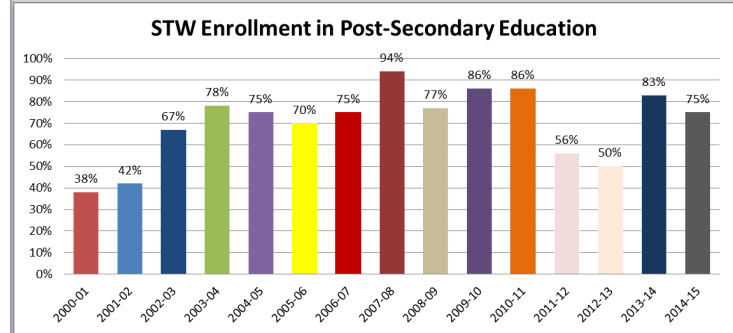
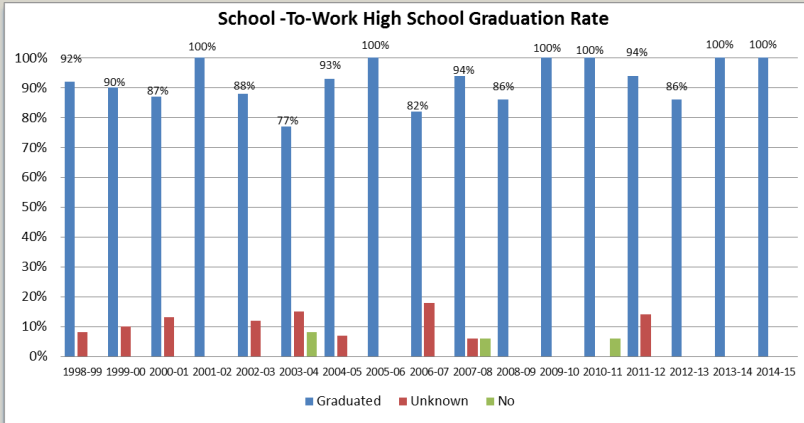
# SUCCESSES

## SCHOOL TO WORK PROGRAM:

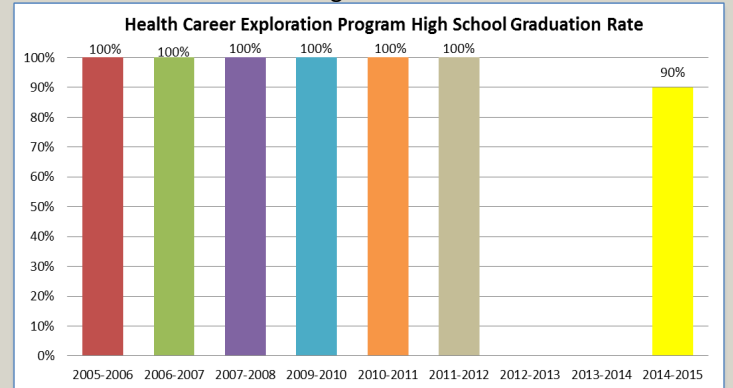
- 94% (16 of 17 enrolled) of the students completed the program successfully.
- Of the 12 students who were seniors during the academic year 2014-2015, 100% graduated from high school. Overall, from 1997 to 2015, the STW program has had a graduation rate of 92%.
- 75% (n=9) of the students who graduated from high school enrolled in post-secondary education in a local community college or a technical school.
- Five students were awarded scholarships and/or academic awards at the Bethlehem Area School District Minority Senior Awards Ceremony.

## ADOLESCENT CAREER EXPLORATION:

- 90% (18 of 20) of the students completed the program successfully.
- 90% (18 of 20) of the students graduated from high school. The students who did not graduate will be returning to school next academic year to complete their high school diploma.
- 75% (15 of 20) of the students will be attending college in the fall of 2015.



NOTE: There was no funding available for 2012-13 & 2013-14

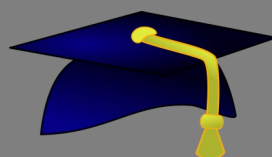


CareerLinking Accademy's visit to the Allentown Operating Room



## CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS

Funding for the Adolescent Career Mentoring Initiatives remains a challenge, especially as we grow as a network and work towards implementing the programs across our campuses.



Report Submitted in 2016