

**SOUTH CAROLINA COALITIONS FOR HEALTH CAREERS
BUILDING A LASTING CONTRIBUTION**

HEALTH CAREERS RESOURCE TOOLKIT

Developing Region: Upstate

Targeted Audience: Middle and high school career guidance/specialists

Project Goals:

- The goal of the Middle School Health Careers Resource Toolkits is to make resources available to support health career exploration within the middle schools of the Upstate region.
- Toolkits are used by middle school career specialists to promote health career exploration among approximately 3000 6th-8th grade students, their parents, and teachers in various ways throughout the school year.
- The impact of the resources provided will help to promote health-related professions among minority students to support their ability to make informed career decisions.
- The over arching goal of the Healthcare Careers Resource Toolkit is to assist in increasing the number of minority students who select health career clusters by 30% by FY2011. Data to be provided by the South Carolina Department of Education.

Project Summary:

- The dissemination of the Toolkits was facilitated with a roll-out approach. The region was divided into four sub-regions. The first set of Toolkits was presented during the 2007-2008 school year. The last set will be presented in 2010.
- To date, 75 Toolkits have been disseminated through presentations made to middle school career specialists by district in the Upstate. Contact information for the school representatives is collected to support follow-up initiatives. An electronic survey is distributed annually to recipients of the Toolkit to assess the usability and impact of the resources.
- Toolkits cost \$150 each. The resources are housed in a reusable "go-green" tote and include:
 - Publications: Pfizer Guide to Health Careers, Middle School Plan for Students with College Bound Dreams, 10 Steps to Helping Your Child Succeed in School, In Demand Magazine, Planning for College – A Comprehensive Guide, Health Science Career Cluster Brochures, Johnson & Johnson Nursing Brochures
 - DVDs: SCHA Amazing Health Careers, the South Carolina AHEC Teach the Teacher Lesson Plans
 - Posters: SE Iowa Health Career Poster, Upstate Coalition Health Career Poster, News in Education Health Career Poster, Aspiring Docs Poster
 - Other: E-Club Cards, Health Career Web Resource Cards
- Initial indicators denote that the health career cluster is the fastest growing career cluster in South Carolina. However, currently available data is incomplete.

Project Outcomes (to date):

- Requests for the participation of the Coalition in numerous Lunch & Learn sessions and career day events have been received.
- In response to receiving toolkits, many Career Development Facilitators (CDF) stated that they planned to use the materials during advisee sessions in preparation for job shadowing days or prior to completing Individual Graduation Plans (IGP). In addition, CDF's especially enjoyed the videos on hospital careers. They thought this was a very interactive DVD that answered questions on various hospital careers.
- Recipients of the Toolkit were asked to complete an online survey to provide information on the use and effectiveness of the provided resources. Of the respondents, 100% found the Toolkit extremely useful and 100% would recommend the use of the Toolkit to support career exploration.
 - The items found most resourceful are:
 - The South Carolina AHEC Teach the Teacher Academy Lesson Plans DVD
 - Upstate Coalition E-Club cards
 - Middle School Plan for Students with College Bound Dreams, Michael Wynn
 - Toolkit resources have been:
 - Used to support career club discussions
 - Checked out for at-home use by parents
 - Incorporated into IGP conferences with parents and students
 - Integrated into classroom discussions
 - Highlighted during lunchtime showcases
 - Added to the Media Center career corner
 - Used during PTA presentations
 - Comments:
 - "My students are always amazed at the number of careers available in the health field"
 - "Having tools like these help make our job easier"
 - "The Upstate Coalition the toolkit provided us with useful books, information, etc to share with students and parents who are interested in the health careers cluster"
 - "This toolkit is very useful not only for the students but for faculty and parents; the info was simple and specific!"
 - "Thank you for the relevant info and the cart to hold it"
- Additional resources to complement the Toolkit are identified and provided upon the completion and submission of the online survey.
- Approximately 35,000 8th – 10th grade students declared the Health Careers Cluster as their career interest/choice through the completion of the electronic Individual Graduation Plan (eIGP) as facilitated through the office of the career specialist during the 2008 – 2009 academic year. (Source: South Carolina Personal Pathways, 6/12/2009).

Best Practices/Lessons Learned:

Career Specialists should be provided with an overview of the Toolkit including the purpose and goals of the initiative along with helpful suggestions for the use of the Toolkit and the feedback needed to support the continuation of the resource additions.

Strategically select the time of year to schedule presentations for the dissemination of the Toolkits. Spring presents the challenge of testing, vacations, and school celebrations which may interfere with the attendance of the career specialist. Also, the time of day should be considered in that career specialists are often involved in afternoon and after school activities.

Request to facilitate the presentation and dissemination of Toolkits as a part of the agenda of a standing meeting of the career specialists/counselors to eliminate the need for additional travel and/or time away from school.

Capture the contact information (name, school, title, phone, email) of the person receiving the Toolkit to support follow-up and data collection.

Sustainability Actions:

The Coalition has successfully partnered with the Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center to secure a 3-year financial commitment to support this and other coalition driven initiatives. Additional partnerships are being sought to further identify and secure financial and in-kind partnerships to support the sustainability of coalition initiatives. The sustainability of the Toolkit initiative includes periodic updates and the addition of resources to the existing Toolkits and potentially expanding the availability of resources to other grade levels.

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