

FINGER LAKES

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"SERVING COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE IN THE FINGER LAKES" BRINGS OUT HUNDREDS OF AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Three hundred and fifty ninth and tenth graders from 21 school districts amassed on the campus of Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua on March 21st to learn about career pathways in healthcare. The 6th annual "Serving Community Healthcare in the Finger Lakes" career exploration program was coordinated by the Healthcare Alliance of the Finger Lakes, the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, and a consortium of regional healthcare providers focused on developing a talented workforce for the region's healthcare industry



"This event enables students to learn firsthand about well paying, middle-skilled jobs that are right in our back-yard" says the

Chairperson of the event and Recruiter/Generalist for Thompson Health Sue Kirkwood. "We are trying to educate students, teachers and parents now so that there is a 'pipeline' of talented workers in the future" says Kirkwood. According to the New York State Department of Labor the fastest growing jobs in the region include jobs from healthcare and social services. These jobs often require certificates, licensing or two year degrees and offer good salaries and benefits.

Students attending were able to participate in activities and presentations from area employers and training providers about healthcare occupations and learn about educational qualifications, salaries and specific job duties. Employer representatives from Finger



Lakes Health, Heritage Christian Services, Thompson Health, Hurlbut Care Communities, Seneca Nursing and Rehab Home presented information on everything from what it is like to be a Pharmacist to requirements for working in a medical lab, to supporting people with disabilities. Instructors from Finger Lakes Community College, Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center provided hands on activities related to careers in Massage Therapy, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Veterinary Sciences and the Emergency Medical Technician field. Additionally fifty nursing students from Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES's Practical Nursing program served as tour guides for students and their teachers. "Participation from members of the industry really highlights the need for a skilled workforce in the future," says Kirkwood. "We are hopeful that some of the students attending this year may become the healthcare professionals participating in following years."



For more information contact the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, 315-789-3131 Ext. 103.