



## INTRODUCING MEDQUEST



**Why MedQuest?** With severe shortages in all health professions, MedQuest is at the foundation of health career recruitment. *With a week-long opportunity on a campus and exposure to health care at in-patient and out-patient settings, high school students come away with a clear understanding of what it takes to succeed in a career in health care.*

**What do teens do at MedQuest?** Area high school students are provided an immersion experience in health career exploration at regional hospitals in southern Vermont. Counselors are first year medical students from the University Of Vermont College Of Medicine. Participants have daily job shadows in traditional hospital medicine and nursing fields, as well as dental, emergency services, veterinary, home health and model long-term care facility. Afternoon workshops focus on what courses to take in high school in order to enter higher education, financial aid information, CPR, mental health needs and personal health.

*Behind the scenes and on the front lines, MedQuest students have a reputation of being polite, attentive, and professional in their interaction. That's because they are oriented about confidentiality, medical terminology, HIPAA, infection control, teamwork, and personal conduct.*

**How much does it cost?** *We are committed to make this program affordable for every family whose child has a desire to attend.* Starting in 2009 families will pay \$350 for basic MedQuest and \$450 for Advanced MedQuest. **It costs Southern Vermont AHEC \$1,500 to bring each of the 53-55 students through Med Quest and Advanced MedQuest each year.** Scholarships are available. Twenty-one students received scholarships in 2008.

**What are our outcomes?** We measure our success by the percentage of MedQuest participants who enroll in higher education in health careers or go on to work in the field. Through evaluations we know that over 50% of the participants go on to higher education in health care professions ranging from nursing, medicine, radiology, physical therapy, social work, pharmacy and many more fields. Over 40% will be first generation college students. Three quarters of the participants say they plan to volunteer or take additional steps to improve their chances of succeeding in college admission such as taking higher level math and science courses.

**How is MedQuest funded?** Southern Vermont AHEC is a 501© (3) organization with a Board of Directors from the four southern counties we serve. Funding comes from the State of Vermont, foundations, community hospitals, HRSA, and private donations.

**Our goal is to raise \$60,000 in private funding to meet the growing need for health care professionals by introducing more students to health careers through MedQuest.**

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