



Best Practices Case Study

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Editor's note: This case study provides information about a 2011 Partner Activity nominee and is an educational service to KSPE members, their organizations, and prospective partners.

Geary Community Hospital Internships

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The Geary Community Hospital has been a partner to Junction City High School for six years by their participation in the Junction City High School Internship Program. As a Career Academy high school, the Internship Program is an important component of the high school's Fine Arts Health and Human Services Academy. Joy Davis coordinates the Internship Program for JCHS and works with all community partners.

During their senior year, qualified students are placed in a semester long, minimum of three hours-a-day internship in the career they hope to pursue. The hospital has provided this opportunity for 44 students over the past six years. Students have enjoyed the experience, and most have become more certain about their career choices in health care field. A few students also decided this career area was not for them.

The organization and placement of these students is managed by Christine Jones, the Education Coordinator at the hospital. She meets with the students individually to explain the placement and their responsibilities. She also determines their specific field of interest so the students can have more time in that area. Ms. Jones organizes a schedule for each student based on this information. All students have the opportunity to spend several days in areas such as surgery, emergency room, labor and delivery, radiology, and intensive care, but are given addition time in the *area* of their particular interest. This is beneficial to the students because they become familiar with the diversity of careers in the health-care

field. Ms. Jones also notifies the various hospital departments about the Interns who will be in their area.

The nurses, doctors and technicians spend time with the high school students sharing career and training experiences. Students have the opportunity to learn firsthand about possible careers available with additional training. Geary Community Hospital's partnership with Junction City High School makes health services fields relevant.

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