



FACT SHEET

Health Careers Exploring Program and AAOA

Background

The Health Careers Exploring Program's primary goal is to expose youth, ages 14 to 20, to the multi-dimensional aspects of and the varied occupations in health. Begun in 1972, Health Careers Exploring is a nationwide program for male and female students interested in pursuing a health career. The Learning for Life Corporation, based in Irving, Texas, conducts the Health Careers Exploring Program along with other career-related and character-development programs. Exploring is Learning for Life's career-education program.

Objective

Health Careers Exploring helps youth explore career fields, assists in character development, and helps them develop social and life skills. Health Careers Exploring is an action-learning program. By providing hands-on, work-related activities to students, members of the health profession and health organizations help youth "explore" the skills, intricacies, demands, and needs of various health careers.

Statistics

The Health Careers Exploring Program is done in some 600 health organizations and schools nationwide, and serves over 22,000 youth. The program focuses on the following health-related fields:

- General Health Careers
- Physician/Surgeon/Allopathic-Osteopathic
- Physician Assistant
- Nursing
- Anesthetist
- Chiropractic
- Dentistry
- Dental Laboratory Technician
- Dental Assistant

- Dental Hygienist
- Forensic Laboratory Technician
- Hospital Administration
- Home Care Aide/Home Health Aide
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Sports Medicine
- Medical Assistant/Aide
- Occupational Therapist, Assistant, Aide
- Ophthalmologist/Optomtrist
- Pathologist/Microbiologist
- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist/Corrective Therapist
- Psychiatrist/Psychologist
- Public Health Specialist
- Radiologist
- Speech/Hearing Therapist/Pathologist
- Veterinarian
- X-Ray Technician
- Therapist/Respiratory

AAOA's Collaboration with Health Careers Exploring

The AAOA has been a long-time supporter of the Health Careers Exploring Program and is represented on the National Health Careers Exploring Committee. During the last 8 years, AAOA has supported Health Careers Exploring in conducting health career conferences at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland; and health career academies in various locations across the country. Through generous contributions from the AAOA's "Sparechange for Scholarships Programs," many youth from underrepresented, underserved areas have received funds to attend these events.

AOA Received National Exploring William Spurgeon Award

In 2006, the Learning for Life Corporation awarded the national William Spurgeon Award to the AOA for their support and service to youth of America. The Spurgeon Award was established in 1972 in honor of the man who is regarded as the major leader in the development of the Exploring Program. It is the highest recognition for individuals and organizations contributing significant leadership to the Exploring Program.