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Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals



Star of Innovation Award Application Form

School Name Montevideo High School Grade Levels 9 - 12
Name of School District Montevideo Public Schools/ISD #129
Name of Principal Chris Weber
Application Submitted By Chris Weber
School Street Address 1501 William Ave.
City, Zip Montevideo 56265
Telephone Number 320-269-6446 Ext. 1172
MASSP Division Central
Name of Program Montevideo Medical Academy - Foundations of Medical Careers Class

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet/s of paper.

- Description of the program.
- How has it impacted your school?
- What difficulties did you encounter in its implementation?
- What issue/s might another school encounter in replicating this program?
- Do you have any data to show the impact of this program? If so, please share it with us.

Applications must be submitted to MASSP offices by March 1.

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Questions? Please contact:
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Monteideo Public Schools

MONTEVIDEO HIGH SCHOOL

1501 William Avenue – Monteideo MN 56265

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Chris Weber, Principal

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MASSP

Star of Innovation Award Application

Monteideo High School

Principal Chris Weber

Monteideo Medical Academy - Foundations of Medical Careers Class

The Monteideo Medical Academy is a group of individuals who came together to discuss the needs of our community and the interests of our students, therein developing the Foundations of Medical Careers class. In the inaugural year of the class, the students are completing college coursework in Nursing Assistant, First Aid/CPR, Medical Terminology and Trained Medication Aide. Students who complete the year-long course will earn nine college credits. The instructor is from Minnesota West Community and Technical College and the class is held in the Monteideo High School. The partners came together to create the "Classatory", a lab within the classroom that holds five patient/resident beds, three mannequins and the supplies necessary to practice the skills. Students completed their lab skills practice in the high school and clinical practice for the nursing assistant portion at one of our local long-term care facilities. In addition, students are connected to many local employers during their class. This year, students were able to take field trips to four local health care facilities. They also heard from six employers during two employer panels. Members of the area agency on aging completed an aging sensitivity program with our students so they could better understand the needs of the people they will care for.

This class builds a strong foundation for students who are interested in a variety of careers in health care and connects them to multiple local employers and career opportunities. Quickly after registration opened last year, the class filled and a waiting list was started. A total of 19 students have completed the first half of the class (Nursing Assistant and First Aid/CPR) and 21 students will finish the second half (Trained Medication Aide and medical terminology). Interest in this class, based on class registration numbers for next year, has doubled. Approximately 86% of the students who are completing the course are working now or planning to work as a CNA in the near future. With the nationwide shortage of nurses, including CNAs, this program helps our community address the immediate needs of filling care positions and also growing future health care professionals in a variety of fields.

As we plan for the future, we have been able to identify a Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 course structure, building into more skilled and specific health care careers. We also determined that the order of the individual components in the Foundations of Medical Careers Level 1 course needed to be rearranged and have made that change already for next school year. In the three-level structure, students could earn a total of 23 college credits.

In developing this program, we had a group of invested partners who could provide different perspectives and resources. Finding an instructor with the correct licensure for each component of the course was the biggest challenge. Partnering with a local health care organization and post-secondary partner are key to overcoming this barrier. We sought out grants that could support the development of the classatory as well as our partners donating equipment and supplies. In replicating this program, it is highly recommended that other schools would find a team of invested community members, employers and post-secondary schools who can join the school staff in considering how this can work in their own community.

Chris Weber

Monteideo High School Principal