Rady Children’s Hospital’s Weekend Medical Academy (WMA) programs provide a condensed learning opportunity for students interested in pursuing healthcare careers. WMA programs address timely healthcare topics and related careers through lectures/interactive discussions, hands-on skills clinics and career panels.

The WMA program, From Dreams to Reality: Become a Professional Nurse, took place May 4-6, 2018 with 24 engaged students from throughout San Diego County, and even Texas and Nevada. Students learned about the history, philosophy, and importance of the nursing profession; how to become a nurse; and the variety of positions and work done by nurses in both hospitals and the community. Throughout the weekend, students learned from 31 professional nurses from Rady Children’s Hospital, San Diego State University, and CSU-San Marcus. WMA participant learning included:

- The Legacy of Florence Nightingale”
- Education & Career Paths
- Tour of Fresh Start Surgery Weekend
- How to Get into Nursing School
- Stop the Bleed Training
- Vital Signs Workshop
- Application & Interview Tips
- Tour of Hematology/Oncology Unit (Hem/Onc); Emergency Department; Helicopter Pad; Outpatient Procedure Center (OPC)
- Hands-On Learning with Basic Life Support (BLS); Cardiac Monitors; Mock Code Situations; Infection Control & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

For more information, contact:
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Student Profile & Feedback

100% of students reported that attending this program reinforced and/or increased their interest in pursuing a career in healthcare!

95% of students reported that the program met or exceeded their expectations!

100% of students reported that they would recommend WMA to a friend interested in a healthcare career!

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Percent of Participants who "Strongly Agreed" or "Agreed" with these statements about participating in this academy:
(N=22)

- Practiced key nursing skills through hands-on skills clinics
- Showed a variety of clinical areas within a pediatric hospital
- Exposed broad range of career opportunities within sector
- Provided guidance & advice for how to become a nurse
- Helped understand the steps for becoming a nurse
- Exposed various career options within sector
- Educated about history, philosophy & importance of nursing

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"I really enjoyed this weekend. It really opened my eyes and it was very inspiring and encouraging."

"My interest in nursing was confirmed and by talking to different nurses I have been exposed to the many fields of nursing and I now think that I want to be a trauma nursing."

"This program really helped me see that nursing is 100% what I want to do."

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Would you like to make this experience available to students with a financial need? Reach out to learn more about our Medical Academy Scholarship program by visiting: https://www.radyfoundation.org/support-sma-scholarships?