The University of Arizona funding enabled Flowing Wells staff to create a Health Professions summer immersive experience for 21 high school students. After surveying student and staff interest, four areas of healthcare were identified: Sports Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Emergency Medicine. Staff developed daily experiences that included field trips, professional discussions, and hands-on activities. Kendall remarked, “Can we do this exact week again next year?” We are grateful for the support of transportation, food service, and all the healthcare professionals who made this initiative possible, and we look forward to continuing to empower the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Post-survey comments highlighted a significant increase in students' understanding of the educational pathways to various healthcare professions. Initially, only 24% of the students felt they understood the education and training required for these careers, compared to 90% after participating in the program.
Highlights in 2024

Sports Medicine: Students visited the FC Tucson professional soccer complex, where the team owner and physical trainer provided a tour and discussed their approach to treating athletes. Nathan expressed, “I am now considering a degree in sports medicine.” Back in the classroom, Edy Yee demonstrated physical therapy on her “patient” Bella, and Carrie Augat discussed the role of dietitians in maintaining health and fitness. Students learned how to calculate ideal body weight and created their own healthy salad dressing with Chef Rick.

Veterinary Medicine: Students visited Adobe Veterinary Clinic, where Dr. Staten gave a tour of the facility, allowed them to observe pig surgeries, listen to horse heartbeats, and handle animal skeleton models. Dr. Staten later joined the students in the classroom to discuss career opportunities in veterinary medicine and taught them suturing techniques. Javon commented, “Thank you for giving me guidance in a very uncertain time. I had a very uneducated view of veterinary work, but you and your clinic affirmed my desire to pursue veterinary medicine, hopefully with reptiles.”

Nursing Professions: Students toured the University of Arizona Medical Center, where nursing faculty presented various careers and the educational pathways for entry. Adriana said, “Taking the short test to see which type of nurse suited you was super cool because it showed how many different types of nurses there are and what may be most suited for you.” Students learned about nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and midwifery. The ASTEC simulation floor was incredible! Back in the classroom, Jennifer Neczypor shared her experiences as an international midwife. Jacqueline reflected, “...you are filled with hope and helped expand my mind in being a midwife!”

Emergency Medicine: Students visited Tucson Fire Station #8, where Captain Garcia and the firefighters gave a tour of the building, including sleeping arrangements, educational classrooms, the kitchen, and physical fitness requirements. The paramedics showcased the medical equipment on the trucks and discussed their professional certifications. During the visit, a call came in, and students observed the rapid response. Bella wrote, “Seeing how fast you responded to an emergency inspired me to want to become a firefighter.” Students returned to the classroom to complete a CPR certification.