


Pathways Program Healthcare Professions 2025



The University of Arizona AHEC funding enabled Flowing Wells staff to host a 4-day summer Health Professions Week for 24 high school students. Students explored fields including physical therapy, behavioral health, nursing, veterinary science, emergency services, and dentistry through field trips, speakers, and hands-on skill-building. One student shared: “This program gives new opportunities to students and opens so many new doors for their future.”

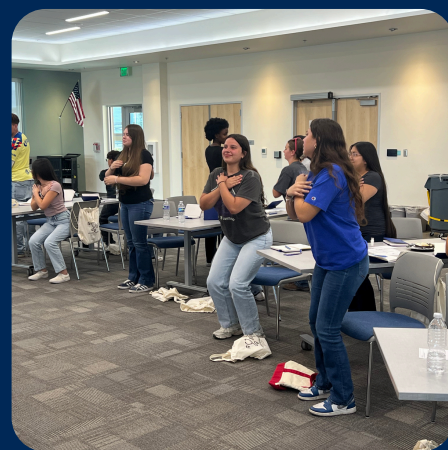
We are grateful to all healthcare professionals, partners, and staff who made this week possible and are proud to support our future health leaders.

Post-survey results showed a major increase in students’ understanding of healthcare career pathways. After the program, 96% of students reported a better understanding of healthcare professions, and 100% said they would recommend the program to others. All participants earned CPR certification and said they could now envision themselves graduating from college. One student shared, “It taught me about paths I didn’t even know existed and made me feel more confident about what comes after high school.”



Highlights In 2025

Students began the week with team-building and a visit to the Cooper Surgical Cord Blood Registry, where they explored the science of stem cell storage and its role in regenerative medicine. Back at the Flowing Wells Community Learning Center, Chef Rick led a hands-on cooking lesson focused on nutrition and wellness. In the afternoon, students heard from Ms. Legarra, a physical therapy technician who will begin her doctoral studies this fall as part of the University of Arizona's first physical therapy cohort. They also engaged with Dr. Val Kading, former CEO of Sierra Tucson, who shared insights into behavioral and mental health careers.



Students spent the day at Adobe Veterinary Center rotating through hands-on learning stations, observing pig and goat surgeries, examining a horse, and meeting a cannulated cow. Later, Dr. Christine Staten shared her pathway into veterinary medicine and led students in a suturing lesson. A student reflected, “My favorite part was seeing the animals in the vet clinic—this was an experience I will never forget!”

At the University of Arizona's HSIB Building, students toured the ASTEC simulation floor and standardized patient rooms, where they observed the simulated birth of a baby and learned how healthcare professionals train in real-world scenarios. They heard from faculty representing the new Physical Therapy program, the Physician Assistant program, and the College of Nursing. Back at the Flowing Wells Community Learning Center, all students completed CPR certification and reflected on the range of healthcare pathways introduced throughout the day.



On the final day, students toured Tucson Fire Station #8, learning about emergency response, firefighter training, and ambulance equipment. Back at FWCLC, Dr. Osete introduced careers in dentistry, followed by hands-on lab stations in blood typing, vital signs, and forensic science. “Getting the full experience at the fire station was amazing,” one student remarked. “Every day I had a fun story to take home.”