



September 16, 2011

CTE Directors and Health Science Education Teachers:

Attached is an application for the **Virtual Healthcare Interactive Project**. This project is a partnership between the Utah State Office of Education and Intermountain Health Care. This is a unique program where students can view an actual taped surgery telecast live to their classrooms and speak to the surgeons/physicians using real-time technology. Students will receive exposure to a variety of healthcare careers related to the surgery as well as pre- and post-event curricula and activities designed to provide them with the background information they need in order to understand the surgery/procedure: Artificial Heart/LVAD. With increased confidentiality concerns, work-based learning experiences have decreased in the healthcare area over the last few years. Engaging students through technology allows hospitals to bring more students into their environment with limited liability exposure and minimal interruption to the hospital.

How it works: The target audience is high school students interested in healthcare careers. The event is scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2012 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. In December 2011/January 2012, a site team from IHC will visit each participating high school to help introduce students to the event and assist the teachers in providing background information for the surgery/procedure. On the day of the event, the participating high schools will be linked to the Utah State Office of Education via EDNET. Students will participate in a 2-hour event where they view the taped surgery/procedure and can communicate with the surgeons/physicians directly. Participating students are expected to be present for the entire event.

Applications from interested high school sites are due back to the USOE by Friday, October 7, 2011. Each site may have a maximum of 50 participants (or up to the size your EdNet facility will allow). Smaller schools are encouraged (but not required) to partner with other schools in their areas in order to maximize the number of participants. Sites selected will receive pre- and post-event curricula and activities that will be required for all participating students regardless of the Health Science course they may be enrolled in. Students will also be required to turn in a fully signed compliance packet from IHC prior to the event. Business attire will be required of the students during the event and site visit. Appropriate student behavior and discipline must be monitored by the HS teacher and/or administrators during the event as well. Post-event evaluations from the students and teachers will also be required.

Included with this letter is the VHI application. Please complete the application and email it to [Thalea.Longhurst@schools.utah.gov](mailto:Thalea.Longhurst@schools.utah.gov). The signature page should be faxed to 801-538-7868. Applications will be reviewed by a committee from USOE and Intermountain Healthcare. Notification will be made by November. Schools are responsible for the selection of the students for participation in the program.

We are excited about this opportunity and feel that each and every participating student will have a valuable and exciting experience. Please feel free to make contact with any person listed below if you have questions. Remember that all applications must be received by the USOE no later than Friday, October 7, 2011.

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