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Media Release

Summer Internship Program Gives Students Real-Life Experience at York Central Hospital

In July, York Central Hospital and Jean Vanier (JV) Catholic High School launched the inaugural program for the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM). This experiential learning opportunity assists students in developing skills in the health care sector.

A group of 14 outstanding high school students were selected to participate from over 70 applicants from schools within the York Catholic District School Board. The internship experience supports students in achieving a SHSM designation on their high school diploma. This reflects their focus on a career in health and wellness and desire to pursue post-secondary education, training or employment within this sector.

“This is a unique opportunity for students to discover first-hand the responsibilities associated with certain careers and decide if it is a path they want to pursue,” said Mary Talamo, Program Pathways Consultant, York Catholic District School Board. “All of the students who participated know how valuable the experiences from this summer will be as they plan for their futures.”

Over the past year, York Central's Professional Practice team has worked closely with JV, Volunteer Services and various departments within YCH to create internship positions within Rehab Services, Pharmacy, CKD Program, Adult Day Program, Seniors' Health Clinic and Bio-Medical Engineering.

Each student has also been trained and certified in First Aid, CPR, infection control and WHMIS and will have an opportunity to accumulate a total of 220 hours of hands on experience. Upon completion of the internship, students are in a better position to make informed decisions about post-secondary education, training and employment opportunities in the health and wellness sector.

“This unique program was another way for York Central to continue its commitment to provide opportunities for students and new graduates to learn, explore and develop interest in health care careers,” said Tiziana Rivera, Chief Practice Officer. “The staff appreciated the students' maturity, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn. It was an outstanding mutually beneficial partnership.”

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Backgrounder

About York Central Hospital

Opened in 1963, York Central Hospital is a large community hospital (506 beds) located in Richmond Hill providing Emergency, Inpatient, Ambulatory, Continuing and Long-Term Care services to a community of over 500,000 residents in Southwest York Region. In addition to the services it provides locally, York Central Hospital is the District Stroke Centre for York Region and is home to a number of regional services including: the York Region Chronic Kidney Disease Program, York Region Domestic Assault and Sexual Assault Care Centre, and the York/Simcoe Behaviour Management and Autism Programs.