Students Exploring Pharmacy (STEP): Developing & Assessing a Pharmacy Career Exploration Program for High School Students

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OBJECTIVES
- To engage high school students in hands-on activities that provide an introduction to pharmacy practice
- To inspire exploration of pharmacy and health care as a career option
- To provide perspective on the ways pharmacists contribute to improving healthcare outcomes

PROGRAM STRUCTURE
- Day Camp Model (4-day week)
- Participatory Lectures & Lab Instruction
- Patient Case Threaded Throughout the Week
- Pharmacy Tours
- Current PharmD Student Panel
- Group Project/Presentation
- Daily Afternoon Activity

STEP PROGRAM SCHEDULE

RECRUITMENT MATERIALS

Program Outline*

Applications: 124 / Accepted: 60, Wait listed: 9
Class Years of Participants: Freshman to Graduated Senior
High Schools Represented: 31
Need-based Scholarships Awarded: 9

PROGRAM EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prompt</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither Agree nor Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My understanding of pharmacy and pharmacy careers increased due to my participation in STEP.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I better understand the role pharmacists play as members of the health care team</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I better understand the ways in which pharmacists contribute to improving the health and well-being of patients</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I found STEP to be an enjoyable experience</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>45</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prompt</th>
<th>Decreased</th>
<th>Stayed the Same</th>
<th>Increased</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My interest in pursuing a career in pharmacy has...</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My interest in pursuing a career specifically in pharmacy has...</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KEY TAKEAWAYS
- The majority of students (64%) indicated their interest in a career in pharmacy increased.
- Of those who indicated their interest in pharmacy stayed the same (29%), over half (60%) reported their interest in health care in general increased.
- Students found active learning components most engaging and recommended more in the future.
- Opportunities to learn about the role of pharmacists and a day in the life of a pharmacist were viewed as most beneficial.