

Nursing camp for young men sparks enthusiasm

The Men in Nurses Training program seemed like a good idea on paper – a June 8-11 summer camp to generate interest in nursing among 9th and 10th grade male students. The idea was even better in reality.

“I’m loving it. It’s fascinating,” said Jesse Mackey, 15, as he used a scalpel to dissect a hog heart.

Thirteen students spent four days in hands-on activities learning about patients’ vital signs, intubation, starting IVs, delivering a baby by C-section, the work of a medical helicopter nurse (a LifeStar touched down on campus), and EMS services with a visit to JCCC’s EMS training center, just to name a sampling of activities.

Enthusiasm ran high among students. And if anyone was squeamish, they didn’t let on.

“I would recommend this class to a friend, as long as he has a strong stomach,” said Alex Hwang, 14.

Free to participants, MINT was funded by a Carl D. Perkins Non-Traditional Occupations mini-grant through the Kansas Board of Regents as a way to encourage high school males to consider nursing as a career, a field where men comprise 5.8 percent of U.S. nurses.

“I’ve always been fascinated by the human body. It’s interesting how our body parts orchestrate together and function as one big machine,” said Sam Hill, 17.

“The body has so many back-up generators; it’s amazing,” added Owen Moore, 16.

As Kim Grubbs, EMS professor who developed and taught the camp with Mark Foster, adjunct assistant professor,



Alex Hwang proudly shows off the “baby” he delivered in the Healthcare Simulation Center.

nursing, said, “The proof will be in the pudding” – the number of these young men who choose nursing as a profession. All of the MINT youth expressed an interest in some kind of health care field – nursing, sports medicine or medicine.

JCCC will offer MINT again next summer if funding is available, according to Phil Wegman, program director, Skills Enhancement, Community Services. **lm**