

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

## **Cosby High program asks . . . So you want a job in health care? / School's center will let students get a head start**

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### **Document Text**

Chris Neville has his mind set on joining the health-care industry after college.

But he never thought he'd get the chance to work alongside medical professionals - specifically in his choice field of radiology - during high school.

Neville will be a sophomore this year at Chesterfield County's Cosby High School, which will house a health-sciences specialty center starting this year.

Each of Chesterfield's high schools has some sort of specialty center. They focus on everything from the arts to mass communications to technology.

Cosby Principal Brenda Mayo said students will be able to learn about jobs in the health-care field but, more importantly, they'll be given opportunities to visit local medical facilities and work with college students and medical professionals in a real-world environment.

The school has established partnerships with medical professionals from St. Francis Medical Center, CJW Medical Center and the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine.

They have agreed to participate in the program by providing professionals to teach classes or offering on-site mentorships and internships for students.

"There is so much more to health care

Mayo than just being a doctor or a nurse," Mayo said.

The health-care professionals served on the steering committee that developed the center's curriculum.

"The health-care providers commented [that] this is the one profession where you will not have to go out of state to find a job," she said. "It's a sustainable industry" in Virginia.

The county already offers health-care classes at Chesterfield Technical Center, though those are geared toward nursing and veterinary science.

Cosby's program will have 170 ninth- and 10th-grade students from across the county this year.

They will follow tracks that take them through the foundation of the health-care industry before branching off into specific fields, depending on their interests.

After taking core classes, students will be able to choose from such electives as forensic chemistry, microbiology and cell biology, pharmacology/alternative medicine, sports medicine/athletic training and phlebotomy.

Mayo said that when students are accepted into the specialty center, even such core subjects as English will have a health-sciences component. For example, ninth-grade health-sciences English will teach about technical writing, research skills and medical vocabulary. Novels that students read will have health-care themes.

Neville, the Cosby sophomore, said he hopes the specialty center will give him an advantage when he applies to colleges.

"I didn't understand how in-depth [the program] was until after I was accepted," he said. "The more meetings I go to, the more excited I get about it."

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ILLUSTRATION: PHOTO

MEMO: CHESTERFIELD THIS WEEK (ZONED WRAP)

Credit: Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

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**Abstract** (Document Summary)

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