University of Rochester’s Center for Community Health Focusing on City’s Urban Teens

The University of Rochester continues to expand its commitment to Rochester’s young adults through the work of the Teen Health and Success Partnership, a division of the URMC Center for Community Health. “Welcoming Rochester’s urban teens onto our campus and into our medical facilities and connecting them to University resources is a win-win for all involved,” comments Suzanne Piotrowski, MD, family medicine faculty and director of the program.

Be Employed Be Successful is a teen development program focused on University of Rochester employment. The University successfully employs 105 Rochester teens in 37 departments. Students at risk of high school dropout are encouraged to remain committed to high school graduation. Support services and the reward of employment motivate the students to maximize their academic potential. One hundred percent of University-employed students have graduated from high school. Eighty-eight percent are enrolled in college or trade school. Fifty-three percent have received employment promotions. Kim Muratore, program manager, explains these statistics, “Our students are tremendously grateful for the opportunity to be University of Rochester employees and program participants. This employment opportunity provides the needed skills and experience to be successful in college application and career selection processes.”

Be Healthy Be Successful is a health literacy program and resource connection program, where Rochester’s teens develop skills that assist them in traversing the health care system. Teens are connected with needed health insurance, medical care, dental care, and vision care services. “Teens are very interested in their health care situation. With support and information, teens enthusiastically seek health services and often serve as a conduit of these services for their families,” Piotrowski reports.

UR BOLD (Building Outstanding Leadership and Distinction) is a collaboration with the Rochester City School District’s Young Men’s Academy. Only 10 percent of Rochester’s underrepresented minority males graduate from high school. Kevin Graham, program navigator, is very proud of the 40 students in this fledgling program. “This program is an opportunity for young Rochesterians to move beyond these statistics,” he says. Young male teens visit campus monthly and participate in college immersion, career exposure, and skill-building activities.

Interested in improving the life of a Rochester city teen? Contact Suzanne Piotrowski, MD, at Suzanne_Piotrowski@urmc.rochester.edu.