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News Release

August 4, 2009

For immediate release

SCC and SEAHEC Camp Disaster

Entering ninth through twelfth grade high school students from all areas of Columbus County participated in Camp Disaster at Southeastern Community College. In the two camps in June and July, staff and faculty from all divisions of the college planned the camp and worked together to provide the campers with classroom and hands on allied health training.

Two days were spent in first aid and basic life support classes (CPR) taught by David Ransom, Coordinator of EMS / Fire Services and Dwight Burluson, part time instructor for CMS, EMT, and other health related courses. Patricia Wright, MLT and Phlebotomy faculty member, assisted the students in using the microscope to view hematological diseases and perform microbiological techniques in the Medical Laboratory Technology laboratory.

Sandra Nance, Pharmacy Technology faculty member, allowed the students to practice pharmacy technology skills in the college pharmacy laboratory and Gail Auten, nursing faculty member, played audible breath sounds on the simulation manikins for the students and toured them through the nursing lab to view other simulation learning opportunities.

Doris Joseph, Interim Director Educational Talent Search Program, led the students in Health occupations/career inventory activities and took each group, on a college van, to tour county health care facilities. Lake Lewis, College Recruiter and Julia Roberts, Occupational Admission Specialist, led the students in team building games, crafts and other activities.

On the first day of camp students were given a camera with the assignment to take pictures that represented some of what they were learning and practicing in allied health career areas.

Days were packed with learning, good food, laughter and practice of skills. Cameras were constantly snapping great learning experiences on film. Their pictures were developed toward the end of the camping week and served as background information for posters and oral presentations they gave about their week experiences.

Lydia Smith, LPN, scrub-tech in the operating room at Columbus Regional Healthcare System allowed the use of the large table-size diorama she developed for Nurses Week at the hospital to be used as a conversation piece in the classroom. This interesting board depicted the various OR areas at the hospital with recognizable faces on the paper dolls and stimulated creative art activities when the campers came together with their own poster boards, glue sticks, markers and scissors.

The mock disaster, coordinated by Al West and David Ransom, was the height of the week as the students used their new training in a mock disaster in which Emergency Medical Technicians, volunteers and faculty simulated a variety of injuries. Volunteers from Camp 1 were Max Goodman, Betty Goodman, Herb Harp (also photographer), Peggy Moore, Elizabeth Chase and Melody Prevatte. Camp 2 volunteers: were Clara Baldwin, Mildred Efird, Shirley Brown, Retha Thompson, Lloyd Morgan, Elizabeth Chase, Sue Bell and Melody Prevatte.

Sonja Green, RN, Shauna Nobles, Education Assistant and other staff at Columbus Regional Healthcare System and Kim Smith, Health Director and other nursing staff at Columbus County Health Department ended the week with tours of their facilities. Students were able to explore all aspects of the health care team and enjoyed having lunch in the hospital cafeteria along with other health care professionals.

Funded by South East Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC) and Southeastern Community College, The camps were developed to promote an interest in health careers, foster this interest and prepare the students to succeed when they enroll in a health career program after high school graduation. Both middle and high school counselors in Columbus County

were sent information about the camps along with applications for the students to complete. Participating students completed the application which included their essay describing their interest in an allied health career, met the overall grade requirement and had references from their school counselor and science or math teacher.

Ninth grade campers included: Central Middle School: Gariel Bell, Markeeta Bryant, Alexis Carter, Tia George, Akil Greene, Katilyn Lemmons, Adairius Melton, Kianna Washington, Tyler Sellers

Hallsboro Middle School: Kendra Bowen, Cameron Daniel

Williams Township School: Cody Jackson, Autumn James

The tenth – twelfth grade campers included: Whiteville High School: Sharmane Burch, Shane’ Lennon, Brook Rasberry, Myesha Williamson

East Columbus High School: Hollie Kinlaw, Natalie Malpass

West Columbus High School: Shanika Blanks, Ashley Corder, Brittany Williams

South Columbus High School: Amber Hooks

The funding agency, South East Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC), was established in 1973 and is one of nine Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) under the North Carolina statewide AHEC Program that was established to attract, retain, and maintain high quality health care professionals in all areas of the state. SEAHEC is administered by the Health Sciences Foundation, Inc., an educational non-profit organization governed by a board of directors.

For more information about the camp contact Peggy Blackmon at 910-642-6152, extension 240 who said “we plan to repeat the camp next year with hopefully even more students. It was great to bring so many people together to accomplish this event. Working together across divisions helped make this camp so special.”

The initial planning committee for the camp included Doris Joseph, Interim Director Educational Talent Search Program who was alerted to the possibility of funding for a camp by Sonali Batish, MPH, Associate Director, Health Careers Workforce Diversity; and Matlynn Yeoman, Vice President of Student Development; Peggy Blackmon, Dean of Allied Health, Business and Technology Division and Camp Coordinator; Robert Carter, Dean of Arts and Sciences Division who identified the name “Camp Disaster”, David Ransom, Coordinator of EMS / Fire Services; Shirley Floyd, Admissions Specialist, James Fowler, Dean of Students; Judy Harrison, Grant Writer; Melody Prevatte, Director of Volunteer Services, Julia Roberts, Occupational Admissions Specialist and Al West, Allied Health Chair and Nursing Instructor.

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(photo below)

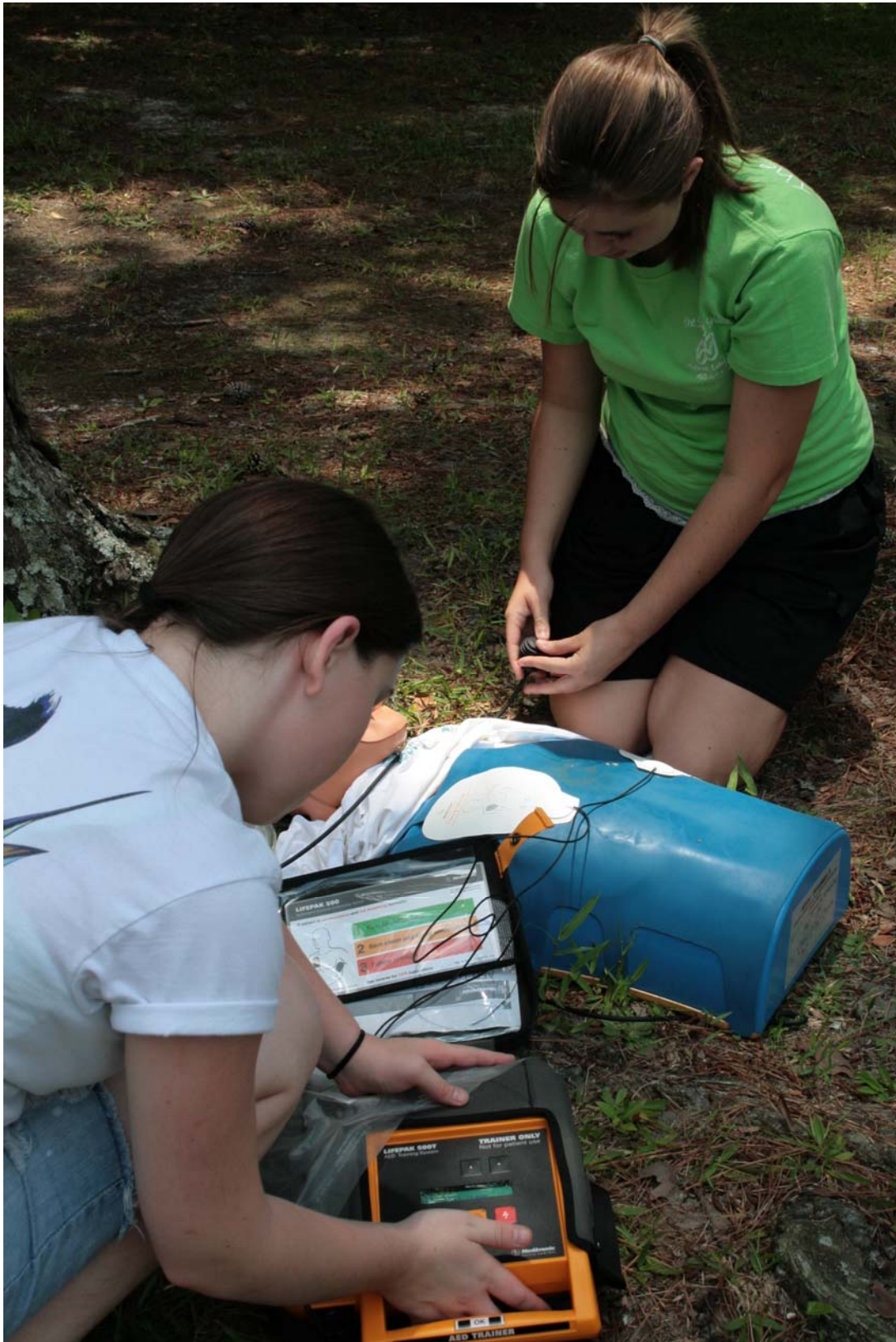


Photo Caption: Camp Disaster participants restart heart using automated external defibrillator (AED).