

FORMER STUDENT GIVES BACK TO REGINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Each year, high school students enrolled in the University of Saskatchewan, Pre-Health Professions club are matched with a mentor in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. The Club is a partnership that involves a community of post-secondary institutions working together with provincial school divisions, regional health authorities, First Nations band communities and independent practicing professionals to provide career development experiences for the students.

This year, fourth-year University of Saskatchewan medical student Jonathan Ehman is giving back to Regina Public Schools by volunteering to share his profession with a student from Campbell Collegiate, Ehman's former high school.

“I consider it a pleasure to have been involved in the Pre-Health Professions Club. Making a decision about what to do with my life was an intimidating task for me as a high school student. I thoroughly enjoyed my time spent touring students through the hospital environment, and they were all very grateful and pleasant to be around,” explained Ehman. Jonathan plans to specialize in interventional radiology following his graduation in May 2013.

Connie Ding is a Grade 12 student from Campbell Collegiate who spent eight hours on October 20th at the Regina General Hospital shadowing Ehman to get an up-close look at medicine in a realistic setting. Through the mentorship experience, students are able to observe the workplace environment and the demands of the profession. An added bonus for students when they mentor with a medical student is that they are able to learn more about the demands of being a medical student first hand.

“The mentorship gave me an idea of what to expect from a career in medicine, as well as a chance to actually see and experience how people work in the hospital before going into the field. During my shadowing, my mentor gave me a lot of helpful advice, and I got to explore and learn about many different aspects of a career in medicine. The experience of seeing an operation was amazing, and it definitely strengthened my determination to choose medicine as a career,” says Connie.

Connie and 42 other Grade 12 students from Regina Public Schools are exploring career pathways to medicine, nursing, pharmacy and nutrition through the Pre-Health Professions Club. The Regina Public School Division has been participating in the Pre-Health Professions Club for the past seven years and, during that time, 265 students from all of the high schools, including the associate schools have participated. The Club works in collaboration with school counsellors to support students in the transition from high school to post-secondary institutions. Club organizers are beginning to see a number of students successfully graduate from health care programs and become employed in their community.

On December 7th, Jonathan Ehman returned to Campbell Collegiate to participate in the Regina Public Schools annual career fair where he will be presenting with other health care professionals as part of a panel presentation on medicine, nursing, pharmacy and nutrition. Thirteen hundred Grade 11 students from all Regina Public schools attended the event that is organized by the school division's guidance counsellors each year.

