



# CAREER CENTER CONNECTION

NEWS FROM THE SIMLEY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CENTER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

## B.E.S.T FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATION CLOSES MARCH 2, 2020

The Inver Grove Heights B.E.S.T. Foundation, established in 1988, provides scholarships to Simley graduates for postsecondary education. This year, the Foundation will provide over \$150,000 in scholarship money and will be offering over 100 scholarships. Scholarships vary widely in criteria- there is really something for everyone!

There is only one application to complete. The more you complete on the application, the more opportunities you have to receive a scholarship; each student will be considered for every scholarship for which they qualify and will be awarded the highest dollar scholarship for which they qualify. Each student may only receive one scholarship with only the exception being two specific scholarships which were established prior to the B.E.S.T. Foundation.

Students are highly encouraged to complete the application, as this an excellent opportunity for each and every Simley graduate. These scholarships are solely for Simley High School seniors and students won't be eligible if they don't complete the application!

The application is now open and will close promptly at 3:00 p.m. on **Monday, March 2, 2020 with no exceptions.**

To apply, go to: [www.ighbestfoundation.com](http://www.ighbestfoundation.com) under the Scholarship tab. On this page, in addition to the scholarship itself, students will be able to access the Scholarship Booklet which includes information and criteria for every scholarship available. There is also an extremely helpful worksheet to complete. By completing the scholarship worksheet on the frontend, students will be able to fill out the actual scholarship application with much greater efficiency. Ms. Kimble has gone into all senior English classrooms to talk further with students about the scholarship program as well as provide each student with a hard copy of the worksheet.

One final note on the application is that once a student has submitted the application form, a copy of the submitted responses will be emailed to the email address provided. If a student does not receive this confirmation email, their application has not been received. It is extremely important that students check for this confirmation email to be sure their application has been successfully committed.

Further information can be found on the B.E.S.T. Foundation website ([www.ighbestfoundation.com](http://www.ighbestfoundation.com)). Students are encouraged to see Ms. Kimble in the Career Center if they have questions or need any assistance with the application.

Inver Grove Heights



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## IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS AROUND COLLEGE AND CAREER AT SIMLEY

It has been a busy start to the year! Specifically, there have been, and continue to be a plethora of opportunities for Simley students to explore career options and prepare for their post-secondary life, regardless of their path. Keep reading to learn about all of the happenings that have been taking place!

### REGISTRATION AND UNIQUE CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAMS

All students have received registration materials for next school year. Additionally, all sophomores and juniors were all presented with information on unique career pathway offerings at Simley. The course program options are briefly outlined below. Generally, there is something for everyone and all students are highly encouraged to take advantage of these incredible career exploration and experience-based programs.

Students must register for any of the courses for which they plan to enroll and complete any additional application requirements by specified deadlines as listed below. More extensive information on each course option can be found in the course guide and questions can be directed to Ms. Kimble or a student's individual counselor. Registration is due in Infinite Campus by Friday, February 28, 2020.



#### EXPLORING TEACHING

This program is for any junior or senior that has ever thought about being a teacher or going into education. Offered through the University of Minnesota but taught right at Simley, students will have the opportunity to explore the teaching profession and examine their own interests in teaching while looking at the multiple factors that shape schools today. Students will also have the unique opportunity to participate in student teaching in a service-learning capacity. Students who successfully complete this course will earn 2 elective college credits through the University of Minnesota. *This course is one hour per trimester, yearlong. There is no additional application required.*



#### CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT/HOME HEALTH AID

The Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course is a career specific, hands-on course that provides training required for basic entry into health care as a nursing assistant or home health aide, including 24 hours of supervised clinical experience in a long-term care facility. Students build their skills in hands-on lessons. Students learn nursing aide skills required for the state certification exam, practice them at local medical facilities, and then take the exam at the end of the trimester. Students who successfully complete this course will earn 5 college credits through Inver Hills Community College. *This course is a two-hour block for one trimester. There is no additional application required.*



#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER/EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

The Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course is designed to provide the EMR at the scene of a medical trauma emergency the necessary knowledge and skill to manage patient care until the arrival of ambulance personnel. The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course prepares students to be eligible to take the National Registry EMT written exam at the completion of the course (after their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday). Students may have the opportunity to work with equipment and may participate in additional off campus experiences. Both of these courses are hands-on and career specific. Students who successfully complete both courses will earn 9 college credits through Pine Technical and Community College. *This course is a two-hour block, yearlong. There is no additional application required.*



#### GENESYS WORKS

Genesys Works is a Twin Cities non-profit organization that partners with the TriDistrict high schools. The partnership seeks to bring diversity to the IT (Information Technology) workforce through 8 weeks of summer training followed by a paid year-long professional internship. Benefits to students include being able to: learn and develop in-demand job skills, attain a first professional work experience, earn \$14,000 during senior year, have a guided pathway to college and career success, gain confidence and career aspirations. Students must be interested in technology, willing and eager to learn, and a senior in high school. *This course is a three-hour, afternoon, yearlong course. Generally, students work from 1-4 Monday through Friday. There is an additional application required. It can be found at: <http://rebrand.ly/GWTC-2020-Application> and is due on March 6<sup>th</sup>.*

## DCTC SECONDARY COURSES

Dakota County Area Learning School provides career and technical education for high school students. Courses are for juniors and seniors, bussing is available, and courses are held at Dakota County Technical College (DCTC). Programs include, but are not limited to: mechatronics, computer service & repair, computer networking, cyber security, construction trades, fundamental chef training, heavy duty truck technology, and total auto care. *This is a two-hour, yearlong course. There is an additional enrollment form to be completed by the time school starts in the fall.*

## TRIDISTRICT PROGRAMS

The TriDistrict Career and College Readiness Initiative is a unique partnership between Simley, Sibley, and South St. Paul High Schools. These programs have been created in an effort for students to be able to explore a wide range of career options in an immersive, authentic environment. The three main components of each of the TriDistrict courses are: professional skills, career exploration, and English curriculum. Transportation is available for those that need it. Students receive 2 elective credits and 1 English credit each trimester.

### First Semester - Classroom Experience

TriDistrict students report each afternoon to the partner site for the first semester. Students will have expansive experiences and exposure to career opportunities within the career field of the course while learning the professional skills required in the current, dynamic, business environments.

### Second Semester - Individual Internship

Students will serve as an intern, working directly with area businesses and mentors to continue to develop and apply professional skills while collaborating on authentic projects and tasks.

### TriDistrict Course Options

- TriDistrict Healthcare Careers (Twin Cities Orthopedics in Eagan)
- TriDistrict Business and Entrepreneurship Course (Evolve Workplace in West St. Paul)
- TriDistrict Transportation Business and Technology (North American Trailer in IGH)



All TriDistrict programs are offered as a block of 3 class periods and are yearlong. There is an additional application required. The application can be found at: [www.careercollegeready.org](http://www.careercollegeready.org) and are due March 13<sup>th</sup>.



## CONSTRUCT TOMORROW



Back in January, over 80 Simley students took part in an event called Construct Tomorrow, as mentioned in the previous newsletter. Students met with union representatives, employers, and current apprentices in sixteen different trade areas. They learned about union apprenticeships (paid on-the-job training) programs that pay you to learn a construction career, offer good wages, great benefits, and free college tuition costs. Most of the trades represented offered students something hands-on- a crane simulator, virtual welder, iron tying, nail hammering, etc. so they could try it and see what it was really like. It was really awesome to see the students so engaged in the demonstrations and jumping in to try things for themselves. The trades offer fantastic opportunity to students and it was so beneficial for students to gain a better understanding of this pathway!

## ACT AND ACCUPLACER



All juniors took the ACT on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Students can expect to receive their ACT score reports in the mail in 4-6 weeks. As a reminder, the majority of 4-year schools require the ACT or SAT as a part of their admissions process. Most students planning to attend a 4-year school will choose to take the exam 2-3 times, as it is highly likely the composite score will increase and every college will always take the highest score. Students who wish to test again will need to register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). The test is offered 7 times a year.

Additionally, seniors planning to attend any technical or community college were offered the opportunity to take the Accuplacer while the juniors were taking the ACT. The Accuplacer is a requirement for those headed to a technical or community college, as it allows the college to place the student into the appropriate level of courses.

The subjects tested are math and English and the exams are not timed. Students can be exempt from the Accuplacer if they hit specific benchmarks on their ACT, otherwise they will need to take the placement test. We had over 25 seniors test with us on February 25<sup>th</sup> which is fantastic, as these students checked an important piece off of their post-secondary planning to-do list. Representatives from both DCTC and Inver Hills Community College were both at Simley to help facilitate this testing process and interpret Accuplacer scores for students. All in all, it was a very successful testing day for students!

Simley High School Career Center



# IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO START PLANNING FOR SUMMER

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Now is the time to start looking for summer opportunities. Many students will take advantage of the time to work and earn money, which is great. Summer is also an excellent time to participate in a summer camp, pre-college program or volunteer around the community. These particular activities can be an excellent use of time as they can support your college application and resume, provide great networking opportunities, and can help provide direction and insight on prospective careers. There is a plethora of these types of opportunities available to students across the nation that vary in both cost and time commitment. Honestly, just taking advantage of something over the summer months is a wise choice.

Any program that is sent to Simley to advertise for students is posted on the bulletin board outside of Ms. Bates' room, across from the Dean's Office. A few local opportunities that former students have had a positive experience with and are worth highlighting are below.

- ✓ **MINNESOTA BUSINESS VENTURE 2019** (*sponsored by Best Prep*)
  - Minnesota Business Venture (MBV) is a fun, week-long residential camp designed to introduce high school students (grades 9-12) to a variety of careers. You'll live on a college campus (St. Thomas or St. John's), meet business leaders, and listen to knowledgeable speakers from top MN companies. MBV shows you how to apply of marketing, entrepreneurship, investing, leadership skills and much more to your life, school and future careers.
  - For more information and the MBC application, go to: <https://bestprep.org/minnesota-business-venture/>
  
- ✓ **FIRST STEP SUMMER INSTITUTE** (*sponsored by St. Catherine University*)
  - The institute is open to all current sophomore and junior women of color enrolled in high school with a 2.75 GPA or higher, who are interested in attending college. First Step programming, lodging, and food are FREE for you for the week-long program. Join a tight-knit community of 25 rising junior and senior women of color and improve your confidence about gaining admission to college. Meet college professors, admission officers, career counselors, and successful female mentors from St. Kate's and the Twin Cities' professional community.
  - Application website: [www.stkate.edu/first-step](http://www.stkate.edu/first-step) (Application deadline: April 12, 2020)
  
- ✓ **SCRUBS CAMP** (*sponsored by Health Force Minnesota*)
  - Scrubs Camp is a residential experience that offers an opportunity to explore health science professions through engaging, hands-on activities, including: surgery, microbiology, nursing, dissections, holistic medicine, athletic training, mental health, and veterinary. Meet Health Care Professionals, Technicians, and Practitioners in a wide variety of medical careers, practices, and fields. Attend workshops, get hands-on experience in real medical simulation labs, and experience living on a college campus for an entire week while networking with medical professionals. Scholarships are available for those in financial need.
  - Registration and more information can be found at:  
[www.http://healthforceminnesota.org/students/scrubscamp.html](http://www.healthforceminnesota.org/students/scrubscamp.html)
  
- ✓ **AT THE WELL YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY** (*sponsored by Princeton University*)
  - At the Well Young Women's Leadership Academy seeks to empower young women to become effective leaders globally. By promoting excellence in education, young talent will transform their communities. We encourage girls to live beyond their limitations, achieve beyond their dreams, and impact communities beyond their reach. The academy runs from July 19 – July 31 at Princeton University. Minority females in their sophomore and junior year in high school are given the on-campus college life experience by living in dormitories and attending classes with core curriculum specifically created to develop black female corporate leaders. There are scholarships available for those who qualify on a first-come, first-serve basis.
  - Registration and more information can be found at: <https://atthewellconferences.org/>

# TRENDING CAREERS

## NURSE PRACTITIONER

### What Nurse Practitioners Do

Diagnose and treat acute, episodic, or chronic illness, independently or as part of a healthcare team. May focus on health promotion and disease prevention. May order, perform, or interpret diagnostic tests such as lab work and x-rays. May prescribe medication. Note: Unlike a Physician's Assistant, Nurse Practitioners are not required to work under the supervision of a licensed MD.

### How to Become a Nurse Practitioner

Many Nurse Practitioners work first as a Registered Nurse or receive their BSN before working towards an advanced degree. A master's degree is the bare minimum anywhere to enter the field as a licensed Nurse Practitioner. NPs are also specialized in certain areas of care, such as family, pediatric, geriatric, adult, neonatal, women's health, occupational health and acute.

The following educational pathways exist for those wanting to become an NP:

- *Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). It will take around three years to complete this course and focuses on subjects, such as pathophysiology, health promotion, nursing theories and pharmacology.*
- *Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). This is the Ph.D. program that allows you to start work as an NP. With a Ph.D., you could also become a nursing teacher. Some of the courses in this field include leadership, population health, capstone project and behavior complexity.*

Typical entry into the field requires a Master's Degree. Students interested in becoming a Nurse Practitioner should take the following courses in high school: anatomy, chemistry, health, human development, nutrition, first aid/CPR, sociology, statistics, and world languages.

### Local Colleges Offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) to a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program

Augsburg College

Bethel University

College of St. Scholastica

Concordia University-Wisconsin

Marquette University

Minnesota State Moorhead

North Dakota State University

St. Catherine's University

University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire

University of Wisconsin- Madison

University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee

### Pay

The median average salary for a Nurse Practitioner was \$101,027 in 2017.

### Job Outlook

Employment of Nurse Practitioners is projected to grow much faster than average (31%) from 2014-2024.

## IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- ✓ **February 28, 2020:** Simley registration deadline (worksheet due and requests in Infinite Campus)
- ✓ **March 2, 2020:** B.E.S.T. Foundation Scholarship application deadline
- ✓ **March 6, 2020:** Genesys Works application due
- ✓ **March 13, 2020:** TriDistrict Programs application due
- ✓ **March 18, 2020:** Teen Job Fair at Wentworth Library
- ✓ **April, 2020 (TBD):** ASVAB Career Exploration Exam offered at Simley

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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