

Frontera Healthcare Network Expands Rural Workforce Pipeline Through Partnership with Texas A&M and School to Scrubs

JUNCTION, TX — [Frontera Healthcare Network](#) is continuing to invest in the future of rural healthcare through a growing partnership with [Texas A&M School of Medicine](#), School to Scrubs, and Big Country Area Health Education Center (AHEC)- along with other key Kimble County Stakeholders, to provide hands-on healthcare career exploration opportunities for students in the Junction High School Health Club.

As part of the partnership, Junction High School students recently participated in an interactive phlebotomy lesson, where they learned the fundamentals of blood collection techniques and gained firsthand exposure to clinical skills used in healthcare settings every day. Students also explored the wide variety of career pathways available within nursing and the broader healthcare field, learning about opportunities ranging from direct patient care and behavioral health to laboratory sciences, administration, and specialized medical professions.

The initiative is designed to help rural students discover meaningful career opportunities in healthcare while building awareness of the growing need for medical professionals in rural communities.

“At Frontera, we believe the future of rural healthcare starts with investing in local students,” said Rachel Schmidt, Rural Health Initiative Coordinator for Frontera Healthcare. “Programs like these allow students to see themselves in healthcare careers and give them valuable exposure to opportunities they may not otherwise experience.”

The partnership continues this summer as Texas A&M School of Medicine and School to Scrubs once again host their Mini-Med Camp, where 13 Junction High School students will participate in immersive healthcare learning experiences designed to introduce students to medical education, clinical skills, and healthcare career pathways.

Frontera Healthcare Network has continued expanding its efforts to support healthcare workforce development across the communities it serves, creating opportunities for students to connect with healthcare professionals, explore career interests, and gain early exposure to the medical field. Through partnerships like these, Frontera hopes to inspire the next generation of rural healthcare leaders while strengthening long-term access to care in rural Texas communities. The impact of these programs is already coming full

circle, as one of the first students to come through this rural healthcare training pipeline will officially join Frontera's Junction medical team later this August.

"Our rural communities deserve strong healthcare systems staffed by people who understand and care deeply about the communities they serve," said Schmidt. "By creating opportunities for local students today, we are helping build the healthcare workforce of tomorrow."

For more information about Frontera Healthcare Network and its community partnerships, visit fronterahn.org.