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PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer C. Jones, Director of Community & School Affairs, (478) 988-6390, Jennifer.C.Jones@hcbe.net

More than Scrubs Houston Health Science Summit held on February 1 *Students from Houston County learn more about careers in healthcare*



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Houston College & Career Academy (HCCA), Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC), Houston Healthcare (HHC) and the Houston County Development Authority partnered to host the fifth-annual Houston Health Science Summit called *More Than Scrubs* on Thursday, February 1. *More than Scrubs* was held at Central Georgia Technical College.

Dr. Sherry Johnson, Principal and CEO of HCCA, said the event is designed especially for high school sophomores in hopes of not only connecting them to classes available at HCCA, but also growing the local workforce to meet the needs of Houston Healthcare, the fourth largest employer in the county. She said, “*More Than Scrubs* was created in 2019 to expose high school students to both clinical and non-clinical healthcare careers. This event is the result of a great collaboration between our community partners to meet the growing workforce needs of our community.”



“More than Scrubs 2024 was a tremendous educational initiative showcasing the diverse healthcare career opportunities available at Houston Healthcare,” said Charles Briscoe, FACHE, President and CEO of Houston Healthcare. “When people think of healthcare, doctors and nurses often come to mind, but

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it's important to recognize that our health system relies on individuals with a wide range of skills and expertise, both clinical and non-clinical, to provide comprehensive patient care. Our partnerships with HCCA, CGTC, the Houston County Development Authority, and the Houston County School District have been instrumental in shaping this initiative and opening doors for the next generation of healthcare professionals.”

In addition to Briscoe, students heard from:

- Dr. Ivan Allen, President, CGTC;
- Dr. Mark Scott, Superintendent of Schools, Houston County School District;
- Siggie Tetteh, VP - Chief Information Officer, Houston Healthcare;
- Shellisa Houston Martin, VP - Chief Nursing Officer, Houston Healthcare;
- David Rossman, Director of Engineering, Houston Healthcare;
- David Borghelli, Director of Emergency Medical Services, Houston Healthcare; and
- Melissa Phagan, VP - Chief of Staff, Houston Healthcare.

The event was facilitated by Kimberly Gunn, Executive Director of High School Initiatives at CGTC, and Angie Gheesling, Executive Director of the Houston County Development Authority.

Students who attended *More Than Scrubs* also learned how classes at the Houston College & Career Academy can help them earn dual enrollment credit while attending high school. This gives them an advantage after high school graduation because they have already earned college credit and/or an industry certification that allows them to enter the workforce directly.

Johnson explained that the school used a targeted approach to invite students to attend this event. She said, “Each high school student takes a test called YouScience that suggests possible career pathways for students based on their interests and aptitudes. This year, we reached out to students who showed a likelihood of interest in the careers that would be discussed at *More Than Scrubs*. This was a great way to introduce students to classes that will set them up for success in their future career fields.”

For more information about classes at the Houston College & Career Academy, visit <https://hcca.hcbe.net/>.

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