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PRESS RELEASE

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More than Scrubs Houston Health Science Summit held on January 30 *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 sixth-annual Houston Health Science Summit called *More Than Scrubs* on Thursday, January 30. *More than Scrubs* was held at Central Georgia Technical College in Warner Robins.

This annual event is designed especially for high school sophomores in hopes of not only connecting them to classes available at the Houston College & Career Academy, but also to grow the local workforce to meet the needs of Houston Healthcare, the fourth largest employer in the county.



Dr. Sherry Johnson, Principal and CEO of HCCA, said, “*More Than Scrubs* is a great event that exposes high school students to clinical and non-clinical careers in the healthcare field. HCCA works with community partners throughout our area to meet the workforce needs of our growing community, and *More than Scrubs* is a shining example of that collaboration.”

MORE

***More than Scrubs* Houston Health Science Summit / page 2 of 2**

“The *More Than Scrubs* event serves as a crucial educational platform, uniting local healthcare professionals with young talent to offer insights into the many diverse career opportunities in healthcare,” shared Charles Briscoe, FACHE, President and CEO of Houston Healthcare. “Quality patient care relies on a wide variety of both clinical and non-clinical professionals. 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;
- Shellisa Houston Martin, VP - Chief Nursing Officer, Houston Healthcare;
- Stephanie Bledsoe, Director of IT Applications, Houston Healthcare;
- Bill Dobson, 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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