

Featured

STEDY & Yuma ABEC host annual Career Exploration Camp for middle schoolers

By Nick Fenley Sun Staff Writer
Jun 14, 2024

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STEDY medical assisting program students help middle schoolers during a mock urinalysis activity.
Photo by Nick Fenley/Yuma Sun

Last week, the Southwest Technical Education District of Yuma (STEDY) and the Arizona Business & Education Coalition (ABEC) hosted the third annual Career Exploration Camp Event for middle school students from throughout the county.

The four-day opportunity was open to public school, private school, and homeschooled students, and Director of Strategic Partnerships Rusty Tyndall outlined what the children got to experience.

“They are partaking in eight modules, two modules per day for four days. We rotate them through, and they have three hours in each module. At this site, we have digital animation, sports medicine, engineering focusing on forces in motion, computer software development, law and public safety, and medical assisting. Out at the University of Arizona site, we have agriculture/nutritional science and engineering structures and robotics,” he told the Yuma Sun, adding that over 150 students participated.

This was the third year of the event, which was sponsored by Yuma ABEC, STEDY, the University of Arizona, Elevate Southwest, and the Center for the Future of Arizona. Avenir Financial, Arizona Public Service (APS), and ALLO Fiber also contributed by helping provide lunches, and transportation was included as well.

Students were divided into cohorts based on transportation, with Somerton and Crane Elementary School District having the largest individual groups. Other participants included students from throughout Yuma County, with one group being from Dateland and Wellton.

During the final day of the camp, participants like Elizabeth Butler, an incoming 7th grader at Ron Watson Middle School, shared some of their takeaways.

“It was pretty fun. Some of it kind of scared me, like when they talked about blood in medical assisting, but it was pretty fun,” Butler said.

Incoming Prenda freshmen Noah Garner discussed how the camp helped him gain a better idea of what he wants to pursue in the future.

“It’s a fun experience because there’s such a wide variety of things that I didn’t really know anything about, so it gave me a lot of choices and thoughts for the future,” he explained, noting that he’s interested in physics, coding, and engineering.

Nick Fenley