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News

City aims to steer students into med, science life

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TRENTON — A new initiative announced yesterday the city's hopes to steer high school students toward careers in the health care and science fields.

Trenton Mayor Doug Palmer detailed the Bridge to Employment effort, which includes as partners The College of New Jersey/Bonner Center for Civic and Community Engagement, Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Johnson & Johnson.

The organization's mission is to increase the number of Trenton high school students entering higher education classrooms.

"The BTE partners all recognize the need for an effective way to nurture aspiring college students in the health care field. The city of Trenton was happy to be a catalyst to help ensure that effective, practical connections were made," Palmer said.

Created by Johnson & Johnson, the BTE program will be implemented at the Trenton Central High School/Medical Arts Academy campus. The first class will include 26 sophomore students expected to participate in a range of hands-on experiential learning activities, including professional mentoring and exposure to college students and faculty.

"This initiative dovetails with the college's strong commitment to civic engagement and community service," said R. Barbara Gittenstein, president of The College of New Jersey. "For nearly 15 years, we have required each of our freshmen to engage in service-learning. This supplies local nonprofits with more than 20,000 hours of service per year and connects our students with the community from their first days on campus."

Students will develop important life skills while receiving intensive academic training and tutoring, with special attention to math and science.

Palmer said students will work with professionals at Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals.

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