

Redman will take closer look into medical field in California

Written by Chris Lee

HHS sophomore Whitney Redman is preparing to take off on a 10-day trip to Los Angeles, Calif. where she will participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine Offers Career Insights. The trip will begin June 20.

She will be staying on the UCLA campus for the 10-day forum and said there will be between 350-400 other students from all over the U.S.

The trip will introduce Redman to a variety of concepts in the public health, medical ethics, research and general practice and will include site visits to medical facilities and clinics.

"I'm very excited," Redman said. She will get great exposure and see what is on the other side of things. She has known for awhile she would like to enter the medical field after high school and this is just a stop along the way.

She will engage in a simulation using problem-based learning, an educational method where students will be presented a fictional patient's case history and must diagnose and develop a treatment plan for the patient.

In addition to visiting cutting-edge medical schools and clinical facilities, Redman will have the opportunity to hear from and interact with leaders within the medical field. She will engage in personal contact with physicians, surgeons, researchers, scientists and medical educators as she visits them at work.

One of the things she is looking forward to the most is standing in on an actual total knee replacement.

Her schedule will be jam-packed with things. Most of the days begin around 7 a.m. and continue until around 10 p.m. or later.

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Redman's great-grandma Vinta spent five years at Regent Park in Holyoke and Whitney along with her mother Misti, spent many days visiting. A connection with Whitney and the staff at Regent Park was made.

Both Bill Johnson and Julie Kotch of Regent Park management said they truly believe in education and like to "grow their own." They are excited to help Redman get this experience and presented her with a scholarship donation to help her pay for a portion of her trip.

"We feel like making an investment in the youth (of Holyoke) is a focus we want to be involved with," Johnson said. They also believe the exposure Redman will receive will help her tremendously in the long run.

It won't be all business during the trip as the group will get the opportunity for some beach time as well as some sightseeing. Redman said in the past students have had the chance to go to the Hollywood Studios and other attractions in the area.

Her itinerary includes attractions such as Universal Studios and the Santa Monica Pier, not to mention the numerous medical schools and sites.

NYLF is an educational organization that brings various professions to life, empowering outstanding young people with the confidence to make well-informed career choices. NYLF has provided programming to more than 100,000 young people.

Redman is the daughter of Misti and Jason Redman of Holyoke and will be a junior at HHS next year.