

Mulling medical



Career fair encourages area students to consider health care opportunities

BY NANCY LOWRY
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Between 800 and 900 eighth-graders from Lawrence County schools were encouraged Thursday to consider health-related careers.

The students, attending a Career Fair sponsored by Lawrence County School-to-Work and held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, learned about a variety of occupations they might consider, what classes they might take while still in high school to prepare for the jobs, what, if any, post-secondary education or training is required and salaries that can be expected.

“Not all health care jobs involve blood and guts, and not all health care professionals are doctors or nurses,” said executive director Lynda Jaworski-Rapone.

“There are many opportunities from respiratory therapists, to physical and occupational therapists, EMTs, lab techs, dietitians, medical transcriptionists, computer skills for medical imaging, phlebotomists who draw blood, home health aids, marketing, any number of related careers,” she said.

At The Cathedral, students were divided into groups. They heard UPMC Jameson medical social worker William Purcell, who spoke about being part of the health team and assisting patients and their families to access needed resources after they are discharged to maintain their independence.

“There are many opportunities in health care, especially in this area near Pittsburgh,” he said. “It’s not all about patient care.”

He urged students to decide

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Eighth grade students from all of Lawrence County Schools participated on Thursday in a Career Fair sponsored by Lawrence County School-to-Work. Students learned what career opportunities are available to them.

NANCY LOWRY | NEWS