

YEHS
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African Americans and people of color, males and the economically disadvantaged ... this type of program exposes them to the health sciences. It's our hope to be able to help them choose to go into the field."

The camp, which is currently funded by a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, grew out of a similar effort that was offered at UNC-Wilmington. This year's 12 participants, all rising ninth graders in Forsyth and the surrounding counties, were slated to engage in a variety of activities designed to increase their interest in health sciences in general, with a specific emphasis on careers in research and health disparities, Skinner said. The students, who were selected based on a variety of criteria, including grades and teacher recommendations, live on campus in dorms at WSSU for the duration of the camp, which runs July 10-22.

Over the course of the two weeks, the students will learn about the different disciplines offered at WSSU



Camp YEHS participants pose with Skinner (fourth from the right) and Performance Center researchers.

Photo by Layla Farmer

under the health sciences umbrella and take part in classroom lectures and hands-on activities, including working with high fidelity simulators, high tech mannequins that can be programmed to simulate a variety of ailments. The students also learn basic first aid and CPR certification before visiting three area medical centers to witness health science professionals in action.

"It's been great. I'm having fun," Rayven said of her

experience thus far. "The days are long and I'm tired at the end of the day, but it's worth it."

On Tuesday, the students visited the Human Performance and Biodynamics Laboratory in Piedmont Plaza, to learn about the motion research that takes place there. The Laboratory, which opened in 2009, is the result of a partnership between Wake Forest Baptist Health and WSSU.

"They had the space and

we had the equipment," said Dr. Judy Foxworth, an associate professor of physical therapy and co-director of the lab. "It's the first partnership that we know of of its kind, with a public and a private institution sharing research space."

Foxworth and two other researchers worked with the youth in small groups, demonstrating the wealth of equipment and technology at their disposal in the lab.

"My main objective is to

make them understand that you can have a very simple question and really impact a lot of people," said Foxworth, a UNC Chapel Hill alumna. "It's not all those other people that make discoveries, it could be them. They just have to have an inquisitive mind."

Aaron Battle's inquisitive mind led him right to Camp YEHS this year. Aaron, a Charlotte resident, heard of the camp through one of his middle school teachers and seized the opportunity. So far, the college experience has been the best part of the camp, Aaron said. Being a part of the camp has piqued his interest in health sciences and solidified his desire to become a physical therapist, the 14 year-old added.

David Ramirez, a rising junior at Parkland IB Magnet High School, participated in Camp YEHS in its inaugural year. David, an aspiring car-

diologist, returned to the camp this year as a peer participant, hoping to help others navigate the program that has meant so much to him.

"I really love this camp; I really love seeing the intelligence of the youth," said the 16 year-old. "I can't even describe all the information they taught us. Camp YEHS has really excelled in helping out people who want to enter the medical field."

Skinner, who also serves as director of Student Advisement at the University, has led Camp YEHS since its inception and says the youth continue to impress her.

"They rise to the occasion," she declared. "If you raise the bar high, they will reach for it and they will attain it. We have to recognize that our children have the ability. What they lack is knowledge and opportunity."

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