

## Mini academy tours offer info on healthcare-related businesses

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Gothenburg High School tenth-graders took advantage of an opportunity Dec. 16 to learn about healthcare-related fields.

Eighteen students met the criteria that included showing a true interest in the career pathway of healthcare, having good attendance and the desire to introduce themselves to their future mentors.

The tours were coordinated by Dawson Area Development's ABLE coordinator Steph Nichols and high school counselor Jerry Wiggins. It was a part of mini academy tours sponsored by ABLE (Advocating for Business Labor and Education).

The students had a wide variety of questions for employers ranging from education needed for specific careers to the specific skills businesses look for in an employee. The businesses did an outstanding job of informing the students of what is right here in Gothenburg for their healthcare career choice, Nichols said.

The day began at Blase Strauser Memorial Chapel with Tim Strauser followed by Gothenburg Eyecare and Optical with Dr. Kim Johnson. The next stop was Gothenburg Discount Pharmacy where Rick Zarek and Niki Salomon discussed the world of pharmacy. Kyle Fornoff of McMeen Physical Therapy did a hands-on presentation with the students.

Next was lunch and a tour of Stone Hearth guided by administrator Barb Nuxoll. The final stop was at Gothenburg Memorial Hospital where a tour was coordinated by Marsha Engel and her team.

The goals for the mini academy tours are to enhance the students' knowledge base of what is available, offer career options they can now research further, give them the ability to set their

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academic pathway and create the mentorship for their future, Nichols said.