

Fairfax County Public Schools

West Potomac Governor's Health Sciences Academy

Executive Summary

April 4, 2013

Partnership:	Fairfax County Public Schools, Northern Virginia Community College Medical Education Campus (dental, nursing, paramedic, PT/OT), Howard University College of Dentistry, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy, Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, University of Maryland School of Dentistry, Virginia Dental Association, Inova Health System, Capital Caring Hospice and Palliative Care, Walgreens
Lead/Fiscal Agent:	Fairfax County Public Schools
Lead Contact Person:	Aaron M. Engley Governor's Academy Administrator West Potomac High School 6500 Quander Road Alexandria, VA 22307 703 718-27250 AMEngley@fcps.edu
Academy Locations:	West Potomac High School
Number Students:	The Governor's Health Sciences Academy will have the capacity to enroll 375 students, grades 10-12. During the initial school year (2013-2014) applications will be accepted for 175 students.
Career Pathways:	Diagnostic Services (2013-2014) Health Informatics (2013-2014) Therapeutic Services (2013-2014) Support Services (2014-2015) Biotechnology Research and Development (2015-2016)
Academy Goals and Description:	<p>The overall goals of the Governor's Health Sciences Academy are to provide expanded options for students' health science literacy and other critical knowledge, skills, and credentials that will prepare them for high-demand, high-wage, and high-skills health sciences careers in Virginia.</p> <p>Specific Governor's Health Sciences Academy objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve academic achievement of students in the Academy; • Increase completion of dual enrollment courses; • Provide work-based experiences for students through strong partnerships with businesses and health care institutions; • Increase high school graduation rates; • Reduce dropout rates; and • Increase enrollment and retention in postsecondary education.

**Program
Highlights:**

As a result of participating in the Governor's Health Sciences Academy, students will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the skills and knowledge incorporated in their health sciences fields of study;
- Benefit from specialized, project-based courses which develop critical-thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills, preparing them for the 21st century world;
- Acquire greater communication and collaborative skills;
- Develop workplace readiness skills;
- Receive opportunities to earn industry certifications preparing them to be more competitive in the work force and when applying to advanced training schools or postsecondary institutions;
- Obtain meaningful hands-on experiences in their career pathway studies; and
- Benefit from opportunities for internships, mentorships, clinical, and cooperative experiences, providing the student with an advantage when entering postsecondary education and/or the workplace.