

## Loma Linda Robotic Surgery Simulation News Article Write-Up

By Cassandra Manalo, HOSA Vice-President

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, Loma Linda University Medical Center provided two Canyon Springs High School Health Careers Academy (HCA) students the opportunity to go behind the scenes of robotic surgery. Through their robotic surgery simulation, high school students interested in the field of surgery were able to interact with the operating team and see the environment from the medical professional's point of view. HCA students Jesus Suarez and Cassandra Manalo participated in the Robotic Surgery Simulation.

The day started out with the coordinator, Tina Pruna, introducing two surgeons, Dr. Michelotti and Dr. Gomez, who explained the evolution of surgical tools. The two doctors gave presentations ranging from laparoscopic tools to the latest robotic surgery tools. Following the doctor's presentation, several operating room professionals were able to speak about their professions, ranging from a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist to Registered Nurse First Assistant. Students were then given a full tour of the entire Loma Linda Surgical Hospital, following the path of a patient from the pre-op rooms to the operating room and recovery rooms. Jesus Suarez was selected to play the role of a patient being transferred, and was even strapped down to the operating table. Student were also allowed into the staff lounges, and even relaxed in the massage chairs reserved for the staff.

Next, the students pulled on scrubs and were taught how to scrub in before being able to enter the operating rooms with the DaVinci robots to actually interact with the advanced technology. There were different stations around the operating room, from practicing skills that surgeons do themselves, to picking up small rubber bands and looping a string through the

rubber band and tying a knot. Students were also able to see the difference between laparoscopic surgery and robotic surgery, and how much easier tasks were with robotic surgery. The scores of each student were recorded, and the top three received a fee waiver for the upcoming Loma Linda Gateway Program in the summer. Kassandra was one of the students who received the fee waiver, after scoring a 93% on the practice runs. After the simulation runs, students were quickly debriefed and shared meal and their favorite part of the day.

The robotic surgery simulation was an amazing opportunity and both Jesus and Kassandra expressed their gratitude for an opportunity just like this one.

HCA Student Jesse Suarez being prepped for “surgery”

