

Westview High School students tour Medical Education and Research Institute in Memphis

Ninth through 12th grade students from Westview High School's Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) group had the opportunity Feb. 2 to get a first-hand glimpse of the state-of-the-art medical training and research activities conducted at the Medical Education and Research Institute (MERI) in Memphis.

Located in the city's Midtown medical district, the MERI is a unique nonprofit medical teaching facility, which trains physicians from across the country and around the world in the latest medical techniques and technologies.

The MERI's unique feature is that physicians are able to "learn by doing" by practicing the newest medical procedures and techniques on persons who have died and chosen to donate their bodies for the advancement of science. Because donor bodies at the MERI are not embalmed, as a medical procedure is being performed, the body reacts very much like that of a living patient, offering physicians invaluable hands-on expertise and experience that they can take back with them to patients in their home-

town practices. Much of the education and research currently being conducted at the MERI involves training physicians in less invasive surgical techniques, which offer less risk of infection and faster recovery times for patients.

During their tour of the MERI, students were shown the facility's three anatomical teaching laboratories, seven research suites and 50-seat lecture auditorium. The students also were told about the MERI's GENESIS donor program, a willed body donor program for persons wishing to donate their bodies to science. The vital education and research conducted at the MERI is made possible because of those who choose to become donors.

In addition, the students participated in an anatomy class conducted by Robin Bozarth, anatomical coordinator at the MERI. Students were able to learn more about the human body by actually seeing and touching (using stringent safety precautions) embalmed parts of the human anatomy including the heart, lungs and brain.

"As a medical education and training facility, from time to time

we like to extend that education to young people by offering tours to student groups, to give those who may be interested in the medical field a unique opportunity to see first-hand what medical research is all about," Bozarth said.

Carolyn Glover, a registered nurse who teaches health science at Westview and is the HOSA sponsor, brought the students to the MERI.

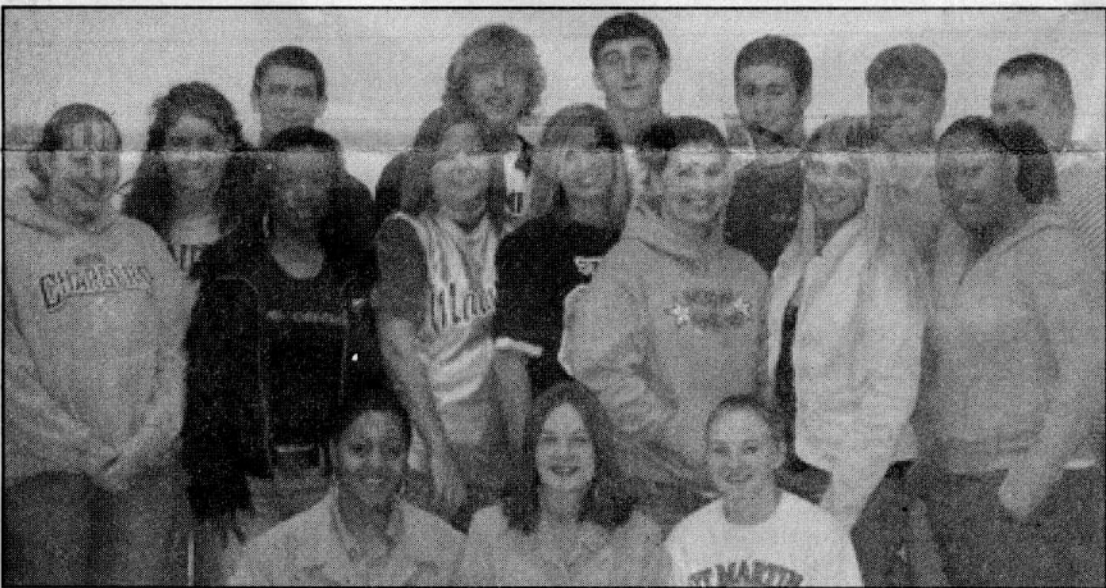
"All of these students have an interest in medicine and in the health care field. It's important to show them all of the things that medicine has to offer as they look toward a career in medicine," Glover said. "A place like this offers students a unique opportunity to see all the new technologies and advances in the field."

Brandon Box, 18 and a senior at Westview who participated in the tour said, "It was awesome." He wants to become a chiropractor and will be attending the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall.

Founded in 1995, the Medical Education and Research Institute (MERI) is a nonprofit institution dedicated to the advancement of science through innovative educational programming and

research.

For additional information about the MERI and its GENESIS donor program, call (901) 722-8001 locally, or toll-free at (800) 360-6374, or visit the MERI's Web site at www.meri.org.



WESTVIEW HOSA SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER — The Westview HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) chapter celebrated the holiday season with a Christmas party for the residents at Van Ayer Nursing Home in December. The residents enjoyed singing, refreshments, gift bags and cards. The students enjoyed spreading the holiday cheer. Members of the HOSA chapter are (front, from left) Amber Thomas, Sandy Davis, Erin Miles; (middle, from left) Amber Hicks, Rolanda Hamilton, Lacey Hammer, Ashley Byrd, Amanda Heisler, Kristin Pruitt, Kristy Johnson; (back, from left) - Audrey Brooke Ingle, Brandon Box, Chris Taylor, Chad Glover, Brandon Pate, Brady Leggens and James Kempton. Members not pictured are Rachel Blankenship, Amanda McDaniel, Sara Patterson, Erica Dunning, Tessa Prince, Tori Scott, Niki Donaldson, Rita Wallace, Josh Baltz, Loren Mallari, Natalie Fuqua, Carmen Brundige, Casey Hazlewood, Megan Cartmell, Sirena Cartmell, Lindsey Hatchell, Emilie Fuqua, Phillip Reyes, Kelcee Plunk, Laura Vaughn and HOSA advisor Carolyn Glover.