

## **COPE Health Solutions expands COPE Health Scholars programs to Bakersfield with Adventist Health Bakersfield**

LOS ANGELES, CA—August 10, 2018 – [COPE Health Solutions](#), a national health care advisory firm that partners with health systems and payers to develop and implement comprehensive population health management and workforce development strategies, is teaming up with [Adventist Health Bakersfield \(AHBD\)](#), a 254-bed medical center in Bakersfield, California, to launch its [COPE Health Scholars](#) programs in Kern County.

The COPE Health Scholars programs provide individuals with unique opportunities to experience health care firsthand in clinical and administrative settings, and prepare them for a wide range of health care careers, from medicine and nursing to allied health and health administration. Additionally, hospital and health system partners benefit from this pipeline of well-trained, motivated and diverse individuals to consider for immediate hire, and once scholars complete their health care education and return to the organization into hard-to-fill positions. These programs are currently offered in 18 hospitals and health systems throughout California, Washington and Hawaii.

At Adventist Health Bakersfield, COPE Health Solutions will offer three COPE Health Scholars programs – Health Scholar, Intensive Health Scholar and Junior Health Scholar. The traditional program known as Health Scholar enrolls college students or graduates for a 3-, 9- or 15-month experience while the Intensive Health Scholar program option is an eight-week intensive summer program. The goal of the Intensive Health Scholar program is to accommodate students with varied needs and interests, including those attending school out-of-state or looking for future employment in a partnering organization. Both require Health Scholars to complete a minimum of 30 hours of training, which includes a written and practical exam and which have the same requirement for completion – at least 280 hours of participation. Upon graduation, Health Scholars earn a completion certificate from the University of California, Los Angeles' (UCLA) Executive Programs in Health Policy & Management. Junior Health Scholar, is a high school program that matches high school students ages 16-18 with a Health Scholar in order to shadow various clinical and administrative units. The purpose of this program is to help high school students gain exposure to the diverse members of the care delivery team and a better understanding of care delivery. Upon attainment of 164 hours of participation, Junior Health Scholars earn a completion certificate from the UCLA Executive Programs in Health Policy & Management.

“The COPE Health Scholars programs aligns with our mission: Living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope. These programs will help us develop local talent and leadership from within our community to meet the ever-changing health care needs of Kern County residents,” said Sharlet Briggs, President of Adventist Health Bakersfield.

COPE Health Solutions offers a variety of customized COPE Health Scholars programs for its health care facility partners, all of which position the firsthand health care experience at the forefront of workforce development. These tailored workforce development programs include options for pre-health students, student nurses, international students, high school students and those making career transitions.

“The Health Scholars program will connect students with entry-level hospital and health system jobs while enabling Adventist Health Bakersfield to establish a sustainable, best-fit talent pipeline that reduces costly recruiting expenses,” added Briggs. “This will also help better position us to address gaps in the workforce for the future. As the only hospital in Kern County to receive the Leapfrog ‘A’ grade for safety, this shows our commitment to quality, which will always be supported by highly skilled staff.”

“The program is designed to help students find out early on if a career in health care is right for them,” said Allen Miller, CEO of COPE Health Solutions. “In nursing school and medical school, students don’t get real-

life experience with patients until they are near the end of their formal education. We also focus on developing leadership skills by allowing students to take on roles that support the operations of the program such as scheduling and training.”

This partnership marks a reentry into Kern County for COPE Health Solutions. In 2007, COPE Health Solutions created a new coverage program for the county, targeting uninsured patients ages 19 to 64 who did not qualify for public programs such as MediCal, Medicare or Healthy Families. COPE Health Solutions took a leading role in improving care coordination and efficiency of care delivery, working together with Kern County to identify innovative opportunities for growth, efficiency, scalability, and financial sustainability for the model.

For students interested in a career in health care and gaining firsthand experience, more information on the COPE Health Scholars programs and application instructions for the Adventist Health Bakersfield program can be found here: <https://copehealthscholars.org/admissions/how-to-apply/>.

### **About COPE Health Scholars**

The COPE Health Scholars programs provide hands-on clinical and administrative experience in health systems and hospitals for aspiring health professionals, which in turn works to address the national health care talent crisis brought on by an aging population and the shift in health care from volume to value. After completing training and successfully passing exams, Health Scholars join the care teams and support both staff and patients with a variety of comfort care tasks, including hourly rounding, feeding patients, assisting with bathing and walking patients, as well as engaging in patient experience initiatives. A division of the business advisory firm COPE Health Solutions since 2000, the COPE Health Scholars programs now graduate about 4,500 students each year and have more than 34,000 Health Scholars alumni to date.

### **About COPE Health Solutions**

COPE Health Solutions is a national health care business advisory firm and a leader in moving health care payors and providers to value-based payments and care models. It partners with clients to help them achieve visionary, market relevant health solutions. COPE Health Solutions areas of expertise and focus include all aspects of strategy, population health management, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services demonstrations, Medicaid waivers, and workforce development for clients across the health care continuum, including hospitals, health systems, physician organizations and health plans.

COPE Health Solutions’ multidisciplinary team of health care experts provides clients with the tools, services and advice they need to plan for, design, implement and support successful operations in a challenging and rapidly evolving health care environment. For more information, visit [www.copehealthsolutions.com](http://www.copehealthsolutions.com).

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