

AMBULANCE: Vehicle will be used for traveling workshops

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problems; or even a tremor to simulate a seizure.

“Carl,” the male mannequin is made of heavy-duty material that is built to withstand tracheotomies, needle sticks, intubation and more. “Noelle,” the female mannequin can give birth, present with a breech child, and even birth twins.

“It’s very rare — maybe once or twice in their career will a paramedic deliver a baby in field,” said Papke. “These mannequins give them the experience they need to help them be prepared for when that time may come.”

The ECAHEC has an additional four “Kelly” mannequins, which are not as high-tech, three child-size mannequins, and one NICU baby.

Classes range from one hour to full-day training and

are provided at no charge to schools and area fire personnel.

“The medical field has always been something that has interested me, but I never had any specific career I’ve wanted to take,” says Shawna Ferrell, one of Heather Johnson’s 11th-grade health students at Sisters High School. “The ECAHEC visit was so much fun and a good experience to figure out what I wanted to do. Doing CPR on ‘Carl’ felt so real — like an actual person. I even got a chance to intubate him. From the experience I’ve come to the conclusion that I would enjoy any emergency medical field.”

In addition to traveling and providing workshops the ECAHEC also coordinates Diagnosis Day, a program for high school students from rural Central Oregon with an interest in healthcare careers. Student participants follow a “patient” from incident to ambulance to emergency room. Throughout the entire

experience students witness all aspects of the healthcare industry including rehab, recovery, and release.

During Diagnosis Day, a typical scenario shows the “patients” presenting with something the students can identify with, like a bike accident where a helmet wasn’t worn or trauma from a car accident caused by distracted driving.

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“We hope to inspire the next generation of healthcare workers,” says Papke. “Now, with the ambulance donation, we have a great vehicle to take to our workshops throughout the region and market what we are doing.”

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PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

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