

## CAREERS: Program has sparked interest in health careers

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Baer said the CTE program is what made going to high school in Sisters different from attending other Central Oregon high schools.

"I credit so much of where I am to this program," she said. "It sets students up for success."

Now a freshman at COCC, Baer spends a couple of days at the fire station each week. Station 701 paramedic Pat Burke said Baer and other young people who've served as resident volunteers are valuable assets.

"They run calls with us," Burke said. "They're a critical component of our day-to-day operation and our ability to serve our community."

The program gives young participants with career aspirations a better chance of being hired for salaried fire department jobs, Burke noted. And competition is fierce. In the past two years, there have been only three employment opportunities at Station 701 — and 110 applicant for those spots.

Johnson, the SHS instructor, said St. Charles Medical Center has provided internship opportunities for Sisters students in a variety of career areas. Students in Johnson's EMS class get to work with equipment such as a mannequin worth \$100,000 that simulates the delivery of a baby.

That mannequin is owned

by St. Charles Medical Center, but is available for student use. Sisters High School has its own set of equipment, much of it purchased with federal Perkins Fund money paid to school districts for every student who earns CTE certification.

"This year, my hope is that 25 to 30 students will have CTE certificates," Johnson said.

EMS/fire and other career-oriented programs provide a world that students otherwise wouldn't know about, she added.

Lydia Newton, a junior at SHS, is among the students who surprised themselves by discovering new interests through CTE. She enrolled in Johnson's EMS/fire class because of a desire to become a paramedic — and learned the fire segment of the course attracted her as well.

"It has definitely grown my appreciation for medicine," Newton said.

Triston Coe, a SHS junior, has had a job-shadow experience at the fire department, and has been an animal caregiver at Sisters Veterinary Clinic for the past three years. He gives animals injections,

including insulin, and sometimes helps them swallow medication pills.

Coe began the veterinary stint after his own dog passed away and he missed being with animals. He called veterinary medicine "detective work" because the patients can't describe their ailments.

The medical/health CTE pathway Johnson described to the school board includes eight separate courses and certifications. Besides EMS/fire, they include emergency care, sports medicine, health occupations with St. Charles Medical Center rotations, and others.

"It keeps kids engaged and keeps them in school," Johnson said. "It's a selling point for our district to have programs as robust as these."

School board members agreed, expressing support for the career education now being offered at the school, including internship opportunities.

"It's an incredible confidence-builder for kids this age," said board vice chair Amanda Clark. "These kids are going into their community and making a contribution."

## BRASS: Concert is set for Thursday night at SHS auditorium

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training at tender ages by their father, jazz-trumpeter/bandleader Kelan Phil Cohran (Earth, Wind & Fire; Chaka Khan; and Sun Ra).

The boys went on to form the Phil Cohran Youth Ensemble in 1990. The family toured the United States performing complex originals written by Cohran and other greats such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and even the music of classical greats Bach & Beethoven. Although the group's early musical training encompassed primarily elements of instrumental performance, the brothers were personally being exposed to the music of their own generation (hip-hop, rock, reggae to name a few) and absorbed these components into the cosmic jazz style of their father.

By 1999, the band of brothers discontinued playing with dad in order to find their own sound, growing into the band now known as Hypnotic Brass Ensemble, or HBE.

The workshop encourages young people to pursue entrepreneurship and working with family — which has manifestly worked magically for them.

"It's a real motivational situation, where we try to get the kids' creative juices flowing," Hubert said. "We try to inspire them."

Those interested in participating in the workshop should plan to arrive by 3:45 p.m. and go straight to the auditorium. Questions regarding the workshop should be directed to Tylor Cranor, Sisters High School director of bands, at 541-549-2099.

Tickets for SFF Presents: Hypnotic Brass Ensemble are \$15 adults, \$10 for students, and can be purchased at [www.sistersfolkfestival.org/tickets](http://www.sistersfolkfestival.org/tickets), or call the festival office at 541-549-4979.

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