

NURSING

FROM PAGE A1

go into a health-related profession, but doesn't know which one yet.

"Who interested me was Deb Warner, my medical skills teacher," Nachtweih said.

The Nurse Now program originated to help prospective nurses experience the profession first-hand.

Botsford staffers explained their craft to more than 30 students from Farmington High School, Livonia Stevenson High School and Redford Union High School. Just three male students participated in Nurse Now.

The hospital is on Grand River, west of Inkster, in Farmington Hills. Botsford has 700 nurses and 300 nurses aides.

Students chose from emergency, surgery, critical care, obstetrics and pediatrics, the cardiac catheter lab, oncology, orthopedics and pulmonary departments.

Recruitment and retention is one of the field's biggest challenges, said Connie Fleming, a nursing director.

"Hospitals are like a business, and we are all in competition with each other," Fleming said. "We all have financial challenges to do more with less."

"This gives students a feel for what they might want to pursue down the road," said Donna Shafer, a registered nurse for 21 years at Botsford. "I don't know what perception they have when they come in. Today is a quiet day. There's only three people on life support right now."

The hospital can accommodate up to eight patients in that area.

There is a tremendous nationwide shortage of nurses," said Beth Montalvo, who



Ashlie Papp from Livonia Stevenson High follows Operating Room Charge Nurse Diane Goolby, RN, out of the sterile operating area.

works in the Botsford public relations department. "There's more options for women (and men) who go into the field."

Nationwide, hospitals report 125,000 nurse vacancies, with an estimated 2,000 of those in southeast Michigan.

"A recent survey reveals that 63 percent of Michigan's registered nurses are 40 years old or older and 15 percent of the current nursing workforce is 55 years or older," said Nancy Dumas, Botsford's public relations coordinator. "These factors make it even more important for students to learn about the varied experiences a career in nursing can offer."



Farmington High student Jennifer Nachtweih shadowed nurse Donna Shafer.

watch my heart jump." "It was pretty cool," Brown said. "I hope to shock somebody someday."

Deborah Luchini, an educator for critical care, explained the specifics. She provides orientation for new personnel, along with on-going training. "We have a code team in the hospital," Luchini said. Every floor has a crash cart that carries the drugs and equipment critical to saving a life, she said.

Papp called working in the critical care station a strain. "It's hard to look at somebody who's on machines," Papp said. "It takes a lot out of you."

"I want to work with cancer patients," said Melissa Beyer, a Redford Union senior who visited the radiology station. She was the only student who was interested in learning about radiology. That meant undivided attention from technician Tom DeRonne.

"We create cross-sectional images," DeRonne said. "Here's the spine and the ribs." He projected an area that showed the location of all of a patient's blood vessels. Presenting the images properly will assist physicians, he said.

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SHOCKING VIEW

Ashlie Papp, a senior at Livonia Stevenson High, wanted to know what procedure is used when a patient's heart stops. She got a chance to hold defibrillator pads. She was joined by Michael Brown, a Redford Union senior. "Wow," Papp said. "It was interesting to



Livonia Stevenson senior Ashlie Papp and Redford Union senior Michael Brown learned about critical care procedures with Deborah Luchini, who provides orientation for new hospital personnel.



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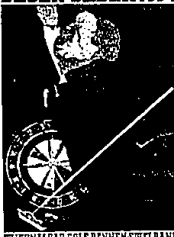
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