

CVEP partners with Health Career Connection on paid summer internships in health fields

By DR. STEPHENIE SLAHOV

The Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP) has implemented the region's first-ever program connecting local undergrads with paid internships in healthcare fields. The internship program, part of CVEP's continuing effort to build capacity for healthcare leadership in the Coachella Valley, was developed in collaboration with Health Career Connection (HCC), a national nonprofit dedicated to preparing students for leadership in the healthcare workforce.

So far, the program has paid \$70,000 to 20 local student interns working during the past two summers at healthcare industry sites around the region, among them: Desert Regional Medical Center, Eisenhower Medical Center, Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo, CVEP Healthcare Workforce Excellence, UCR School of Medicine, Coachella Valley Healthcare Initiative, Riverside County Public Health, Borrego Community Clinics, City of Coachella, Angel View Foundation, Health Assessment Resource Center, FIND Food Bank, Raices Cultura Youth Development Organization, and Pueblo Unido Community Development Corporation.

"If we are serious about developing our healthcare workforce, we need to do more than just provide a path to higher education," says Thomas Flavin, president and CEO of CVEP. "Exposing local students to relevant summer internships gives them the chance to continue learning in a real-world setting, laying the foundation for future careers."

The intern group is composed

predominantly of CVEP scholarship recipients. Many are studying to become doctors, nurses and public health leaders, among other healthcare professions. And most importantly, all of the participants have committed to serving in the Coachella Valley once they've completed their education. Funds for the internships, which pay between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per summer, have been provided by healthcare industry hosts, the Desert Healthcare District, and the California Endowment. HCC has provided funding for 10 of the 20 interns across the past two years, including \$35,000 cash and \$30,000 in program administration.

"This program allows our most promising students to experience local jobs and develop into leaders in the Coachella Valley healthcare workforce," says Sheila Thornton, director of industry councils for CVEP's Workforce Excellence. "It is part of a long-term approach designed to help meet the Coachella Valley's future health needs with top quality professionals from within our region."

On August 18, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., all ten of this summer's interns will be touring Desert Regional Medical Center. During this site visit, they will hear from industry leaders and tour the facility.

On September 15, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., CVEP's Healthcare Industry Council will host an HCC Intern Celebration featuring presentations from healthcare leaders and interns on their summer projects.

For more information about CVEP's Workforce Excellence programs, visit www.cvpts.com. **TPR**

BUSINESS NEWS

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2012 BNP PARIBAS OPEN MINI AND GROUP TICKET PACKAGES ON SALE NOW



Mini and group ticket packages for the BNP Paribas Open, the most-attended ATP World Tour and WTA Premier tennis tournament in the world, to be held March 5-18, 2012 at the beautiful Indian Wells Tennis Garden, are now on sale.

One of the most popular ticket packages with tennis fans are the Mini packages, which offer five different options including the Kick-Off Weekend (six sessions, March 9-11), Evening (nine sessions, March 8-16), Mid-Week (six sessions, March 13-15), Final Weekend (four sessions, March 16-18) and new for 2012, the Championship Weekend (two sessions, March 17-18). Mini packages provide the same great seat location for all sessions located in the lower bowl box seat sections, the upper bowl loge seat section, as well as the luxury Club suites. Buying early ensures the best seat locations.

Group packages offer a great value for ten or more patrons and include complimentary tickets as well as seating in all premium seating locations including loge, box seat and club suite. The All Pro package allows groups to purchase 50 tickets or more, from any seating category, to any of the 21 sessions, and in turn receive two complimentary Stadium Box seat tickets to any session of their choice. This is a great option for tennis clubs whose members may want to attend different sessions throughout the tournament.

For more information and to order packages, call the Indian Wells Tennis Garden Box Office, (800) 999-1585 or visit www.bnpparibasopen.com, where there is a complete listing and description of all ticket packages and pricing. **TPR**

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