

An Interprofessional Health Professions Summer Camp As A Recruiting Tool: Husson University

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BACKGROUND

In response to a concerning decline in pharmacy school admissions nationwide, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) recognizes the urgent need to engage high school students in exploring diverse healthcare careers. Our campaign aims to ignite interest in pharmacy, nursing, physical therapy (PT), and occupational therapy (OT) by emphasizing the value of interprofessional collaboration. Through interactive workshops and mentorship programs, we highlight the interconnectedness between these disciplines, showcasing the vital role each profession plays in delivering comprehensive patient care. By fostering a deeper understanding of the synergies and opportunities within pharmacy and related fields, we empower students to envision themselves as future healthcare leaders.

OBJECTIVE

To cultivate interprofessional collaboration (IPC) and attract prospective healthcare professionals through a one-day Health Professions Summer Camp targeting high school students interested in pharmacy, nursing, physical therapy, and occupational therapy.

METHODS

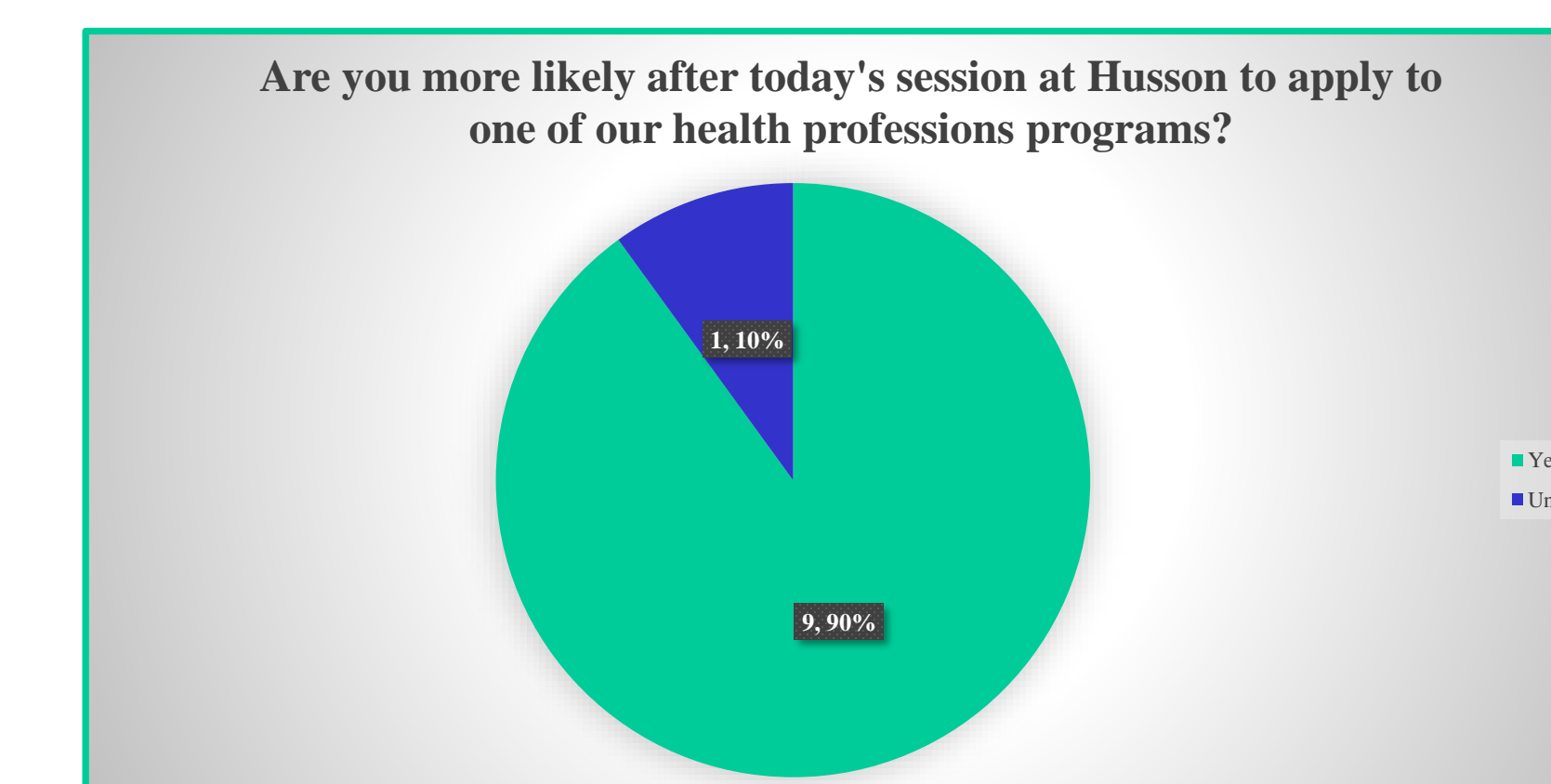
The Husson University College of Health Professions (HUCOHP) Health Professions Summer Camp (HPSC) aimed to provide students with immersive experiences in healthcare professions and emphasize the importance of interprofessional collaboration (IPC). Through interactive sessions, a standardized patient scenario involving a high school athlete with mild concussion symptoms was portrayed. Each profession's role in patient care was demonstrated, including compounding topical products with Pharmacy faculty, conducting neurological assessments with Nursing faculty, performing balance testing guided by Physical Therapy faculty, and tailoring meal plans with Occupational Therapy faculty. Furthermore, students visited a local community pharmacy for a facility tour and engaged in a scavenger hunt for self-care products, enhancing their understanding of pharmacy practice.

RESULTS

▪ Fifteen campers attended the inaugural HPSC, with ten completing a post-event assessment survey gauging their perceptions of the event and interest in pursuing healthcare careers. Nine out of ten respondents reported an increased likelihood of applying to a health professions degree program at HUCOHP after the camp. Four campers expressed a heightened understanding of Occupational Therapy, and three noted interest in early workforce exposure, particularly pharmacy technician roles.

What did you learn about a health profession that you did not already know? (8 responses)

- I learned more about what pharmacists do.
- You could work at a pharmacy at 16. Being in a pharmacy is very cool and fun and you are still helping people!
- I did not know what OT was tbh
- I really got to learn what a pharmacist and an occupational therapist do. My perception changed a little bit about both professions



CONCLUSION

The Health Professions Summer Camp at HUCOHP successfully engaged high school students in hands-on activities exploring the roles of various health professionals, while highlighting pivotal interprofessional collaboration. This novel approach to recruitment serves as a promising strategy to attract and engage potential future healthcare professionals, fostering a deep understanding of the diverse but complementary roles within the healthcare ecosystem and inspiring a new generation of interprofessionals.