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## Camp hopes nursing interest is infectious

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Amanda Hoffman breezed through the task of changing dressings on her mannequin patient Tuesday.

"I had so much fun yesterday that it was hard to not pay attention to how it's done," she said.

The 16-year-old from Simon Kenton High is one of 23 girls going through the "Pathways to Nursing Summer Nurse Camp" this week at Northern Kentucky University and St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

The four-day camp is sponsored by a University-Community Partnership Grant through the Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement.

Students spent the first two days at NKU and will spend the next two at St. Elizabeth. It's the first time they've held this camp.

"When I was in high school, there were never opportunities like this," said Adele Dean, assistant professor of nursing at NKU.

"We wanted to expose them to opportunities in nursing and to campus life," added Judi Frerick, also an assistant professor of nursing at NKU.

On Tuesday students learned several skills, such as tube feeding, catheterization and CPR.

"It's not as easy as I thought it would be, but it's not too difficult," said Shelby McNeese, a junior at Rising Sun High School in Indiana. "I like helping people and thought nursing would be what I want to do. I came here just to confirm it."

Malori Renda, 18, just graduated from Beechwood High and will attend the University of Kentucky to study nursing. She's at the camp to get a jump on her college major.

"I didn't know how to do any of this before I got here," Renda said. "I like it because it's all hands-on, but there's a lot of detail. It's hard to remember every little step."

At St. Elizabeth today and Thursday, the girls will shadow nurses and see some of what they learned on mannequins in real life. They'll also see demonstrations by Air Care, Trans Care and Boone County Water Rescue.

Amanda Hoffman has plenty of motivation to go into health care. She said her family has had genetic problems, including one that resulted in a blood disease that took the life of a family member.

"I want to specialize in anesthesiology and also do research," she said. "With my family history, I've wanted to be a nurse for a very long time."

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