



# 2025 CHAMPS Awardees

Virtual Awards Ceremony | Wednesday, December 10, 2025

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## ***Excellence In Innovation Award*** **Coal Country Community Health Center, ND**

Through its immersive Scrubs Camp, now in its tenth year, Coal Country Community Health Center (CCCHC) is transforming how eighth-grade students in rural areas explore careers in health care. Since its inception, this event has served more than 1,400 students from the Beulah, Center-Stanton, Hazen, and Killdeer School Districts, communities CCCHC has proudly served since 2003.

What sets this initiative apart is not simply the act of hosting a career exploration event, but the thoughtful, hands-on structure that CCCHC has developed. Scrubs Camp is designed to introduce students to the vast and exciting world of health care careers through interactive demonstrations, engaging workshops, and real-world activities.

Through strong partnerships with the local critical access hospital, long-term care facility, county ambulance service, four school districts, Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas, and more than 60 dedicated staff, CCCHC has built a collaborative model that fully immerses students in a realistic health care environment. Camp participants rotate through eight distinct health care disciplines, including behavioral health, dental care, diagnostic services, emergency medical services, long-term care, nursing, rehabilitation services, and surgical services.

In each rotation, students engage in tasks, such as suturing a pig foot, practicing CPR on mannequins, exploring a cow heart, and other skill-based activities, while learning about career paths and the skills necessary to succeed in the health care industry. This hands-on experience not only informs but inspires and empowers students to imagine futures in health care and recognize the meaningful impact they could have.

CCCHC's Scrubs Camp is more than just a career day—it is a transformative experience that sparks curiosity, builds confidence, and encourages students to pursue futures in health care. It is a shining example of innovation in action, shaping the workforce of tomorrow by investing in students today.

*For its outstanding commitment and visionary approach to fostering the future healthcare workforce, we are pleased to present Coal Country Community Health Center with the CHAMPS Excellence In Innovation Award.*