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Medical Imaging News

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LEAD STORY

The Cleveland Clinic Brings X-Ray to Life for High School Students

A recent partnership between the [Mayfield Excel Technical Education Career Consortium \(TECC\)](#) and the [Cleveland Clinic Office of Civic Education Initiatives](#) produced tangible, lasting results.

Working in concert with [Cleveland Clinic](#) professionals, project manager Dar'ya Taraban and fellow classmates Tony Pohlman and David Rancourt created the [Online X-Ray Library](#).

"I am charged with taking what we do at the Cleveland Clinic on a daily basis and providing creative, real-world learning opportunities in the classroom," said Rosalind Strickland, senior director of the Office of Civic Education Initiatives, which collaborated with the Division of Radiology. "This was a perfect opportunity for that, because the goal of the library is to be an educational community resource for students to access authentic medical images."

Library images were obtained from a variety of modalities and are offered in both high- and low-resolution formats to facilitate their use in a variety of ways, according to the hospital. The Cleveland Clinic expects many of the images to be incorporated into student research papers, PowerPoint presentations, term reports, science fair projects, and educational Web sites.

Strickland and her team will provide additional guidance for schools eager to incorporate the images into their curriculum. "It is a way to engage students while teaching about the bones of the body—for example, 'Here's what a healthy bone looks like,' and 'Here's what a bone that has osteoporosis looks like'—so you can build that into lessons about the importance of exercise, the importance of calcium in your diet," Strickland said. "This is an opportunity for students to learn about science and health issues from a different perspective, so it connects the real world to the classroom."

The Office of Civic Education Initiatives was created a year ago and was tasked with fulfilling the Cleveland Clinic's commitment to promote education throughout Northeast Ohio. Strickland and her growing staff currently have partnerships with approximately 700 public and private schools, covering kindergarten through 12th grades, to promote innovative programs that improve learning in areas of math, science, health and wellness, and the arts.

In addition to ongoing projects, such as the Online X-Ray Library, the Office of Civic Education Initiatives heads up [a variety of other education-based programs](#), including two full-time, paid summer internship programs.

"This is the second summer for our [Science Internship Program](#), which pairs top science students from throughout Northeast Ohio with our researchers," Strickland said. "This is not shadowing; it is being an

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active member of the team, and the interns actually get to work alongside the clinicians, producing a research poster at the end of the nine weeks."

A total of 78 students work throughout the hospital, including the clinical lab and all areas of imaging. Upon returning to school in the fall, students give poster presentations on their research to their school or science classes and, in some cases, to community school groups and school boards.

"They also give these presentations to the art classes, which then produce artistic interpretations of the research," Strickland said. "So it becomes a form of peer-to-peer learning."

Running concurrently with the science internship is a similar program for high school students interested in nursing. The [Nurses of the Future Program](#) launched this year with 29 students and also takes a very hands-on approach to introducing the profession to students.

"The interns are active participants and are working alongside our nurses," Strickland said, noting that all nurses who are assigned students have earned Magnet status, the highest national ranking for nursing excellence. "Often, people think everything in a hospital stays contained within the walls, but here's a positive way in which we're taking what we do and creating learning opportunities to really strengthen the education system."

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