

Tania Dawson  
Farmington/Norridgewock/Franklin Hospital  
LD 210

My name is Tania Dawson. I am a Registered Nurse at Franklin Hospital in Farmington. I was the Western Maine Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Director for 7 years, before taking my current role as the Manager for Clinical Education and Clinical Operations for Nursing. I would like you to know about just one of the AHEC programs that has been running here at Franklin for 15 years and 5 of our staff members who got interested healthcare careers because of this program. Scrub Club is a summer day camp for up to 50 kids that is usually 4 days long and run here at the hospital. It's become a very popular program, and we always have wait list. It's run in June but this year we have already had parents call us to see if they can get their child registered so they don't miss out. As I said one goal is to get kids interested in a healthcare career. Another is to explain that there are more than just doctors and nurses here. These kids spend time learning about physical therapy, occupational therapy, our dietitians, medical assistants, surgical techs, and our EMS team- all of these folks not only talk about what they do but they show the kids what they do by teaching them using hands on activities such as cast placement, phlebotomy, intubation, injections, the use of adaptive equipment, how to litter a patient out of a wooded area, I really could go on and on. They leave us with a CPR certification, first aid certification, and Stop the Bleed certification. Some come back for an additional day to finish up their baby-sitting certification. They spend time with our IT staff, our engineering dept, and our dietary staff as well, to show them the different kinds of professions available to them in healthcare that aren't just clinical based. Without doing a comprehensive survey of our current staff, I can tell you of 3 nurses- Brenna, Jade, and Sam- working here at this time that attended Scrub Club, Kassie is in her clinicals for Nurse Practitioner school, Kylie works on Med/Surg now and her sister also attended Scrub Club and is in Nursing school and she intends on working here when she's passed her boards. Shawnee came to Scrub Club, went to nursing school, met her future husband, Isaack and brought him back to work here as well- she works on OB and he works in our OR. Scrub Club brought 7 nurses to work here at Franklin. Kaden is a pharmacy tech here at Franklin. Sarah is a paramedic for MaineHealth EMS. And again, I didn't have to work hard to think of these names. These people will be taking care of me and you one day. Franklin relies on Scrub Club to light a fire for healthcare careers in our young people. Scrub Club is not possible without AHEC funds. That goes for so many other programs run statewide by Western Maine AHEC and the other 3 Centers across the State of Maine. Please take this into consideration, realizing that the \$110,000 per year given to UNE and the Centers is worthwhile and used well. Thank you for your time.