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Solano County Office of Education Hosts Major General Talley for Medical Science Tour

Army Major General Reunites with High School on Medical Science Tour

Fairfield, CA – Today, Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) hosted Major General Michael J. Talley, the 46th Commanding General and Commandant of the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence (MEDCoE), for a visit of the patient care programs at two local high schools. The tour began at Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District's Fairfield High to speak to students enrolled in the sports medicine classes and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC). The tour then continued to Travis Unified School District's Vanden High where Talley spoke to students enrolled in JROTC and medical science courses.

"Our school districts have developed a wide variety of exceptional career education pathways for students, including health science and medical technology. We are honored to host Major General Talley to showcase the meaningful education and skill development that Solano County schools have to offer. This hands-on learning will undoubtedly prepare and serve students well in their careers," remarked Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

As a young man, Major General Talley attended school in the Travis Unified School District at Golden West Middle School and Vanden High School, up to halfway through his junior year. Talley was welcomed back to Vanden with a robust Viking chant from students and honorary Vanden HS spirit wear and a Viking helmet presented by Principal Kristin Shields.

In general, high school medical science courses across the county instruct students in basic medical terminology, anatomy and physiology of body systems, pathogens, disease, and how common pharmaceuticals work in the body. Mathematical concepts that are commonly used in health professions are also included. A typical high school sports medicine course is designed for students to learn the components of exercise science/sports medicine including exploration of therapeutic careers, medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, first aid, injury prevention principles, the healing process, rehabilitation techniques, sports nutrition and more. Both course pathways connect students to hands-on skills, knowledge and career exploration.

Major General Talley spoke to students at both high schools about the wide array of career options in the fields of patient care and in the armed forces. He spoke about his personal career path that began in Solano County and led to his current post as Commanding General of MEDCoE, which is located at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and one of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's 10 Centers of Excellence.

SCOE was honored to be called upon by Major General Talley for a tour and grateful for the opportunity to highlight just a few of the amazing students and staff behind state-of-the-art career technical education pathways offered to students in Solano County's schools.

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