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MAP 3-4A

December 17, 2012

HOSA Activity

HOSA Leadership Conference

On November 6, 2012, there was a mandatory conference for the HOSA officers in Provo at the Marriot Hotel. Here, I heard inspirational stories about a woman who survived through one type of cancer to the next, and a family struggling to be happy knowing that two of their children have death dates awaiting them.

There was a brief welcome announcement to start off the conference at the Marriot Hotel before the guest speaker walked on stage with her story to share. She talked about her struggle with cancer at the age of 16, and how it continued to progress as she aged to be the grandma of several grandchildren today. Through humor and the support of her loved ones, she was able to make it through one type of cancer to the next. She mentioned several of her heroes, many of which were doctors, and how they helped her to continue living another day with her family. She had several chemotherapy sessions, and her body still shows the toll that it took on her.

Behind the humor was a woman who had evidently faced hardships both financially and emotionally as cancer kept reappearing back into her life. Tears from the audience started off the morning, but her story became an inspiration for many future doctors that were present in the room. Becoming a doctor never appeared to be more honorable of a job than she had made it sound right then and there.

After her speech, everyone was ushered into the different workshops. I attended a public speaking session along with a presentation on ethics in the health field. The description for each

workshop was very vague, and I wish the summary was better so I wouldn't have chosen the ethics workshop where I felt as if the presenter did not want to be where she was doing what she had to do. My second workshop on public speaking was much more interesting as the presenter had a lot of energy, and also involved the students in her presentation. Although it had little to do with health care, I felt as if I got more out of that workshop than the last.

There was a lunch break after the workshops and following up after lunch was another presentation on cystic fibrosis. The movie clip was played, and the family came on stage to talk about their struggles dealing with this genetic disorder. Two out of three of their children have this disorder, one of which was their newborn daughter that they brought with them that day. The mother talked about how unfair it was for her children to have a death date be placed on their life, and what really added to the effect of the story was when her daughter started coughing on the stage. She continued to do so for the rest of the speech, adding more fresh tears to the audience's eyes.

I loved the fact that these guest speakers really moved the audience with their life stories. It became very motivational for me that day to want to continue on pursuing the medical field so that I can help great people like the ones I met that day. Being able to sit and listen to these stories was the best part of that day. I wish that I could've gotten more out of the workshops as I had through the speakers, but everything did feel quite rushed because we were on limited time. Overall, it was a very moving conference, and I would spend those eight hours there again if I got the chance to.