

Buffalo Healthcare Exploration (BHE) Program 2025

1st Week Overview

The Buffalo Healthcare Exploration (BHE) Program at Roswell Park, hosted through the ATLAS department, began its Monday through Wednesday sessions for three weeks on July 28th. The program offers an exceptional opportunity for high school students to explore the dynamic world of healthcare. Through interactive learning experiences and mentorship, BHE equips young scholars with valuable insights into various medical fields, fostering curiosity and passion for healthcare careers.

This summer, 49 scholars from Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and adjacent Suburbs high schools joined us on campus. According to pre-program surveys, the top reasons students applied to BHE include a strong interest in healthcare careers, the desire for hands-on experience, learning about cancer research and patient care at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The BHE Program has six core pillars: Innovation, Compassion for Community, Empathy (Patient Education), Visualization of Complex Concepts, Education, and Career Path Understanding.

During the first three days of the program, the students engaged in a robust lineup of sessions to build and enhance their empathy and compassionate skills. Learned the fine art of interview skills, were educated on the emotional wheel concept and then engaged in some intimate interview sessions with cancer survivors. After the interviewing session they completed the **"Storyboard" project** under the guidance of Danielle Depalma (an Art teacher with years of experience using emotional intelligence to help students through difficult emotional situations). The Storyboard Project encourages students to reflect deeply on patient experiences, incorporating emotional insight, visual storytelling and patient-centered narratives. It has been an inspiring and enriching start to the program, and we look forward to sharing more highlights and outcomes in the next two weeks of the program.

For more information about the Buffalo Healthcare Exploration Program, please contact **Nancy Preskop** at **Nancy.Preskop@roswellpark.org**



BHE
Buffalo Healthcare
Exploration



Buffalo Healthcare Exploration (BHE) Program 2025

2nd Week Overview

The Buffalo Healthcare Exploration (BHE) Program at Roswell Park, hosted through the ATLAS Department, entered its second week with a focus on hands-on learning and career exploration.

On Monday, August 4th, the week started in the ATLAS Simulation Lab with two educational seminars. The first covered robotic and laparoscopic surgeries, the advanced forms of minimally invasive surgery using computer-controlled robots and specialized tools. The second focused on endoscopic surgeries and their benefits. Afterward, students practiced hands-on skills like Peg Transfer and Precision Cutting using laparoscopic training boxes and wrapped up with activities on the Endoscopic Simulator to experience how advanced surgical tools feel in a surgeon's hands.



The Nursing Professional Development session at the Marie E. Bogner Simulation Center provided students with hands-on experience while exploring a range of nursing career paths. They practiced accurate blood pressure measurement, safe blood draw techniques, and how to perform CPR on both adults and infants. Students also trained with a high-fidelity mannequin, gaining an early glimpse into the skills and responsibilities of modern nursing.

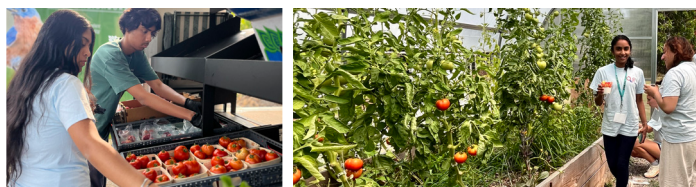


Students earned certifications through CPR and AED training led by Roger Leising (WNY Healthcare) and "Stop the Bleed" workshops with Beth Moses,

BSN, EMT. These sessions equipped students with essential life-saving techniques and emphasized the importance of safety awareness, including responsible decision-making and driving safety.



Students also explored the various roles and career paths in the clinical laboratory field, gaining a better understanding of how diagnostic testing supports patient care. To close out the week, students visited Buffalo Go Green, where they helped prepare the mobile market with fresh produce and participated in a "Nutrition 101" lesson, followed by a discussion on the nutritional benefits of local fresh produce for the prevention and treatment of chronic disease. They explored food systems through group activities, toured the greenhouses, and visited the hydroponic farm, gaining a deeper appreciation for sustainable agriculture and its role in community health.



Week 2 was filled with discovery, skill-building, and meaningful engagement. As the students continue their journey, we are excited to see their passion and understanding for healthcare continue to grow in the final week of the program.

For more information about the Buffalo Healthcare Exploration Program, please contact **Nancy Preskop** at Nancy.Preskop@roswellpark.org



BHE
Buffalo Healthcare
Exploration

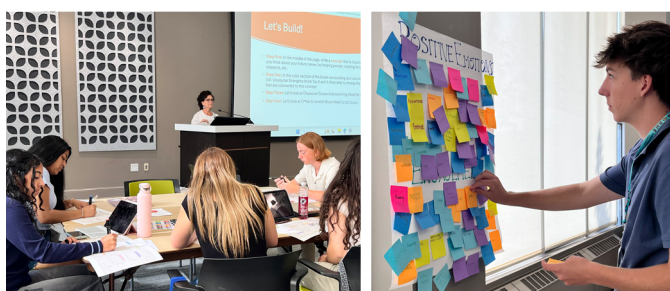


Wrapping Up a Transformative Journey: Final Week of the Buffalo Healthcare Exploration Program 2025



The final week of Buffalo Healthcare Exploration (BHE) program was nothing short of inspiring. Over the past three weeks, students immersed themselves in the heart of healthcare, and the closing days brought powerful reflections, hands-on learning, and heartfelt celebrations.

Building Resilience & Emotional Intelligence the week kicked off with a deep dive into personal wellbeing, led by the Division of Employee Resiliency/EAP. Students explored the science of happiness and resilience through the lens of PERMA-V-Positive Emotions, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning, Achievement, and Vitality. Each participant crafted their own Resiliency Toolkit, empowering them with strategies to thrive both personally and professionally. The session sparked meaningful conversations about the importance of supporting healthcare workers and cultivating emotional intelligence in high-stress environments.



Monday afternoon the PhD Research Trainee students at Roswell Park hosted a Research Career Session with BHE students. Students had the opportunity to learn about the pathway to a PhD program in a panel discussion, discuss unique training specific to their program, and hands-on stations including microscopy, pipetting, and DNA extraction from strawberries. A lively game of "Research Jeopardy"

closed off the session, leaving students energized and inspired by the possibilities of a future in scientific research.

Tuesday was a daylong session with "The Division of Employee Resiliency/EAP". New to the BHE program, the students explored the Values-in-Action Character Strengths and used their new conceptualizations of themselves to focus on career path development and future aspirations. The day ended having the students participating with a campus-wide scavenger hunt to explore some of Roswell Park's unique, reflective space and hidden gems.

On the final day of the program the students learned about the importance of Hand Hygiene and overview of Infection Prevention with the Quality and Patient Safety Department. This information was perfect for the students because soon they will be going back to school.

The program concluded with a heartfelt closing luncheon catered by Lebro's Restaurant. Students proudly presented their Storyboards and shared their personal mission statements, honoring the volunteers who courageously shared their cancer journeys. It was a moment of connection, gratitude, and celebration—a beautiful ending to a life-changing experience over the past 3 weeks.

For more information about the Buffalo Healthcare Exploration Program, please contact **Nancy Preskop** at **Nancy.Preskop@roswellpark.org**



BHE
Buffalo Healthcare
Exploration



**ROSWELL
PARK**
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER