As part of a new OSHPD-funded project, FACES juniors and seniors learned more about being a primary care provider. A panel comprised of a Nurse Practitioner, Pediatrician, Medical Assistant, Medical Resident, Medical School Student, and Registered Nurse discussed their roles, paths to their careers and medical school, and answered questions.

A skills clinic followed the panel presentation. Students learned basic skills such as taking blood pressure, height, weight, BMI, reflexes, etc., receiving hands-on experience and training from members of the panel; as well as what it is like to be in the role of the primary care provider.

The class of 2015 explored the genome as guests of Illumina Inc. Students began by learning about Illumina, its mission and vision, and how genomics can be applied to medicine. In smaller groups, students spent the day getting hands-on experience and learning more about genes. They explored the Illumina lab where they extracted their own DNA. A genetic counseling presentation explained the future of genomics and personalized medicine.

The day ended with a panel of staff relating their individual journeys leading to a career at Illumina and answering questions, followed by a meet and greet lunch. Students were amazed and encouraged by the beautiful campus, as well as the staff diversity and opportunities right in their “back yard.”
**Alumni: Building a Network of Resources**

FACES for the Future alumni gathered at the City Heights Wellness Center’s teaching kitchen on Jan. 2 for an evening of camaraderie and learning. The evening began with preparing a healthy meal together: a simple salad, vegetarian lasagna, whole wheat garlic bread, Greek yogurt bark and fruit infused water.

During dinner, Krystal Garcia from Health Careers Connection (HCC) presented HCC paid internship opportunities. Also, HCC alumni Iman Khiar and Jorge Palacios (also a 2012 FACES alum) talked about their experiences as HCC interns last summer at Rady Children’s Hospital.

FACES alumni received valuable resources, and were given the opportunity to voice their suggestions about resources they would like to see offered in the future. Of high importance to the students is the support from staff and each other, and learning about options for meaningful internships and work experiences.

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**FACES by the Numbers**

- **27** seniors have completed **292.5** hours of hospital rotations so far this academic year
  - Next rotations at Rady Children’s Hospital begin Jan. 26
- **54** juniors have completed **294.75** community job shadowing hours
  - Community placements are ongoing
- **7** professional and/or personal growth workshops have been offered so far this quarter, with an average attendance of **56** students
  - Workshops are offered weekly. Upcoming topics include Communication, Resilience, Self-Confidence, Careers and Basic Skills in Oral Health and in Behavioral Health.

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**“Unlocking Life’s Code”**

52 FACES students went to the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in Balboa Park, exploring the Genome exhibition to “unlock life’s code,” and discovering the genetic components that make people into unique and diverse individuals. Students were given an in-depth look into the rich history of Genome Sequencing and the ever-expanding and exciting careers that lie ahead, as genomics creates the future of healthcare.

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Many thanks to our financial supporters: