

**PROJECT NAME:** Health Careers Opportunity Program  
**PROJECT LEAD:** Nancy Twillman, M.S.T.-E, MSW with Kristin Kush, MA, and Shirley Propps  
**TIMELINE:** 3 years: Sept. 2009-Aug. 2012  
**CONTENT AREA:** Education, Pipeline program for underrepresented minorities in health professions  
**FUNDER:** Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)  
**CLIENT:** The University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, Inc. and the KU School of Medicine Office of Cultural Enhancement and Diversity  
**AUDIENCE:** The University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, Inc., the KU School of Medicine Office of Cultural Enhancement and Diversity, Dr. Patricia Thomas (primary investigator), and local HCOP implementers.  
**METHODOLOGY:** Mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative)  
The University of Kansas Medical Center's HRSA HCOP programming provides access to science, math, technology and language arts education through project-based, applied learning. Students actively engage in projects designed to increase their knowledge and to increase student motivation to study and enter higher education in Health Career studies.

RDI serves as the external evaluators for the K-12 HRSA HCOP program components, This project uses pre and post instruments to examine changes in student knowledge and career interest. Qualitative measures are used to gain process data and to assess project implementation success.

**OVERVIEW:** The University of Kansas Medical Center's HRSA HCOP programming includes two components evaluated by RDI:

1. The Saturday Science and Math Academy: The Saturday Science and Math Academy enrolls 60 middle school and 60 high school students yearly in programming providing 120 hours of Science, Math, and Technology workshops and career exploration activities.
2. The Summer Science Residential Academy: The Science Residential Academy enrolls 30 rising 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in a 6-week residential camp on the Lawrence campus of the University of Kansas. Activities include multidiscipline, small group learning teams. Coursework also includes 40 hours of ACT Kaplan Review preparation.

**LINKS:** [www.hrsa.gov](http://www.hrsa.gov)  
Total project funding \$172,322