The Mercy teen shadow program at Mercy Hospital Ardmore, which educates local students about the possible careers in health care, is in its second year.

This year we received more than 30 applications for the 20 spots we had available. Students came from Ardmore, Plainview, Lone Grove, Wilson, and Dickson high schools. We even had one student from Highland Park, Texas, who drove two hours each day to participate in our program.

The students spend every Tuesday and Thursday shadowing in 15 different departments throughout the hospital - from materials management to surgery. Students leave with a better appreciation of our co-workers and Mercy. The students also participate in Lunch and Learns that feature speakers such as Daryle Voss, our president and CEO, and Andre Moore, our executive director of foundation.

The students earn over 90 hours of shadowing if they attend every Tuesday and Thursday. They leave understanding the Mercy culture and what it means to be a part of this ministry.

We understand that the future of health care lies within these young minds. That's why we invest our time and money into them. They will be the ones carrying on the torch when we are gone.

If you would like more information about the program, please contact Marcus High, community health and access coordinator.