



The **Institute of Health Careers** is a charter school initiative that serves as a collaborative platform for students at grade levels 9-12, educators, health professionals and higher education and the private sector healthcare professionals.

The vision for IHC is to develop and administer a sophisticated health care studies preparatory program designed to adhere to a S.T.E.M. based learning and career building paradigm in Mississippi that meets the needs outlined in the Mississippi Economic Council's economic development guide for Mississippi entitled *BLUEPRINT MISSISSIPPI*. By introducing a proactive educational platform that embraces students early, students will be better prepared to acclimate to the courses of study required in the various health related clinical and business fields.

Preparing students through a comprehensive STEM approach partnered with a robust leadership and disciplinary infrastructure ensures that students are truly prepared for the healthcare economy at every level. Whether it is care delivery, health IT, healthcare research or entrepreneurship and supply chain management, students will have the access and learn to speak the language long before they enter an institution of high learning. This is a priority given Mississippi's adamant focus on healthcare as an economic driver. The four major areas for the healthcare report revolve around these significant actions: Workforce Development, Quality of Life, Business Sustainability and the Creation of Economic Wealth none of which are applicable without education.

That said, charter school legislation in Mississippi serves as an opportunity to try something new and create educational options for students and families. Charter schools allow failing schools and districts to finally address some of the major issues that plague Mississippi students thus producing an innovative environment for learning. By blending the charter covenant with the curriculums of the JROTC and the IHC, we introduce a dynamic model in Mississippi that advocates leadership, discipline, commitment, preparation and achievement that is irrefutable.

## **FACTS ABOUT THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTHCARE ECONOMY & WHY A MILITARY STYLED CHARTER SCHOOL MAKES SENSE.**

As the largest industry in 2012 representing almost a 5th of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), health care provided 14 million jobs, with 7 of the fastest growing occupations coming out of or being related to the health care sector. It is estimated that health care will generate 3 million new wage and salary jobs between 2006 and 2016, more than any other industry.

The proposed program is designed to graduate high school students with an Advanced Health Care Studies Diploma. This diploma would prepare students to enter the collegiate world with an academic infrastructure geared towards careers in the various health related fields including health delivery organizations, medical offices, long-term care facilities, insurance or payer organizations, medical product companies and government agencies. The program will also prepare those high school graduates who wish to pursue future post-graduate studies in fields such as health care services (medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy) and health care administration.

The proposed charter health care studies high school program prepares students for positions within the public or private sector and for continuing education in graduate health care programs. Through relationships and partnerships with various universities and colleges around the state, this high school alternative education program mandates a strict well designed curriculum that critically weaves the fundamentals of an advanced STEM program with the underlying nuances of global thinking inside of a global health care industry. This dynamic program is centered on advancements in patient care and treatment and creates a foundation for visionary thinking in the field that surpasses typical programs where students are not confident in their career courses