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Education

Charter school CEO sees healthcare aspirations rise amid Baylor Scott & White partnership



Uplift Heights Healthcare served roughly 300 freshman and sophomore students this past year exploring careers in the medical field.

UPLIFT EDUCATION



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Uplift Education CEO Dr. Remy Washington lights up when she talks about the healthcare aspirations her students now harbor because of the charter operator's ongoing partnership with Baylor Scott & White Health.

She's excited by the clarity and confidence she hears from Uplift Heights Healthcare seniors as they describe their intention to continue studying careers in the medical field. They detail how they want to pursue specialized roles such as radiologists and ultrasound technicians.

It's a signal to Washington that the newly established healthcare institute at 2806 Canada Drive in West Dallas aiming to prepare students in underinvested communities for careers in the medical field is working. The charter school operator and Baylor Scott & White [received a \\$14.9 million grant](#) from Bloomberg Philanthropies in 2023 to launch the healthcare-focused school in the Hamon Foundation building. The funding was part of a national \$250 million initiative aiming to set students up for medical careers.

Career prep programs like Uplift Heights are especially important for a healthcare sector that is struggling with shortages of qualified workers in multiple fields. That's especially true in growing areas like Dallas-Fort Worth, with hospital systems looking to fill [new and expanded medical centers](#).

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"We have an opportunity to ensure we are strengthening the communities that we're in. [Uplift Heights] is important to workforce demand and a shortage," Washington said. "But it's also about strengthening the communities in which our schools sit. Our job is to make sure our kids are on an economically mobile pathway, and the partnership with Baylor Scott & White is perfect because they too are equally invested in making sure that their workforce has high wages and skill."

A day at Uplift Heights begins similarly to a traditional high school with students learning their regular core subjects – English, mathematics, humanities and science. But unlike other schools, the [institute infuses healthcare](#) into everything students learn. This might look like writing an essay on the negative impacts of vaping for English or drawing lungs in art. The institute served roughly 300 ninth and 10th graders this past school year and will see roughly 120 new students enroll at the free career-technical education school.

Once students become juniors, they select [one of four medical pathways to focus on](#) – biomedical science, nursing, healthcare therapeutics and business and operations – and will spend the rest of their time focused on that pathway.

Baylor Scott & White takes over the school at the end of each quarter, bringing in healthcare professionals to provide hands-on clinical training. The healthcare system [aims to showcase medical career options](#) with immersive field trip experiences, mentorship and job shadowing and internship opportunities.

"The more exposure that students get to what's possible, it lifts their aspirations. That's the amazing part about this program," Washington said. "We thought, Baylor definitely wants to improve workforce. There's a workforce demand here. But how [students] get on that and decide what they do is being heavily influenced by the exposure opportunities that they're currently having at Uplift Heights."

Washington envisions expanding the healthcare institute to Fort Worth and establishing a career pathway in sports medicine, an in-demand specialty in sports-loving DFW. The expansion is [still in early planning and development](#). She aims to secure a healthcare partner similar to Baylor Scott & White but would also be very happy if the healthcare organization she described as the "perfect partner" worked with Uplift on the expansion.

"For us, it's finding the funding to support this expansion in Fort Worth. We already have a blueprint," Washington said. "We already know what works, we know we can do it in Fort Worth. We're looking forward to having that opportunity to build something even bigger and better in Fort Worth."

Founded in 1996, Uplift Education is a free public charter school network serving 23,000 students across 20 campuses. Uplift Heights Healthcare Institute

represents the network’s first healthcare-focused school, but the organization also offers nursing pathway for ninth graders at Uplift Grand Preparatory High School, where it serves roughly 70 students.

T H E L I S T

North Texas area's largest hospitals, 2025

Licensed beds

Rank	Prior Rank	Hospital
1	1	Baylor University Medical Center
2	2	Medical City Dallas
3	3	Parkland Memorial Hospital

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