

National Rural STEM Educators Summit - September 3 & 4, 2026

Schedule of Interactive Lab Activities

Thursday, Sept 3

8:30-9:30 AM

Osteopathic Medicine: The Healer Within

Explore the history and principles of osteopathic medicine, including musculoskeletal tools and tips for how to best take care of yourself. Learn to utilize touch as a diagnostic and treatment tool.

The Clinical Skills and Simulation Center: High-Fidelity Training for the Future

Watch patient-provider encounters featuring life-like mannequins of human adult models. Practice evaluating a mock patient in the ER, providing lifesaving measures, taking patient vital signs, and more.

Envision Optometry

Learn about the specialties within the field of optometry, try your hand assessing real-life patient conditions in our virtual reality lab, and practice eye exams and other optometric activities.

Occupational Therapy: Skills for the Job of Living

What does an occupational therapist do? Understand career options and practice utilizing adaptive equipment and dexterity games to improve patient function.

Speech-Language Pathology: Tools for Improving Communication

Learn about careers in the exciting field of speech-language pathology. Participate in workshops about vocal cord functions and therapy techniques for those who have lost their ability to communicate or swallow.

A Look Inside Human & Animal Bodies

View human and animal anatomical specimens such as a heart, lung, knee, arm, brain, or other dissections in a medical school anatomy lab. Learn new ideas for teaching anatomy.

Explore Podiatric Medicine through High-Tech Training

Understand career options in podiatric medicine/surgery and practice examining the lower extremity utilizing a doppler for vascular examination, ultrasound technology to evaluate musculoskeletal pathology, and arthroscopic simulation for surgical training.

Friday, Sept 4

8:30-9:30 AM

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A Hands-On Large Animal Center Experience

Join us for a fun, slightly dirty, hands-on encounter that will leave you with a better understanding of a day in the life of a large animal veterinarian! Interact with horses and cows to learn about the basics of handling as well as the equipment veterinarians employ to perform a physical exam and make a diagnosis, including how to assess temperature, pulse, and respiration. Learn about our large animal care rural services.

Nurse Anesthesia: Healthcare's Best Kept Secret

An overview of the exciting careers in nurse anesthesia. Learn how an anesthesia machine works, practice intubating models and a high-fidelity mannequin, and try your hand at ultrasound.

Physical Therapy: Mobility is Medicine

Learn about careers in physical therapy, try out PT equipment, and practice different assessment and therapy techniques. Come dressed in clothes you can move in!

Cardiovascular Perfusion: Lifesaving Procedures

Learn the perfusionist's role in open-heart surgery, view a working heart and lung machine, and try your hand at a life-saving procedure.

Virtual Reality for Health: Computer-Assisted Rehabilitation Environment (CAREN)

This advanced virtual reality platform is one of fewer than 20 in the U.S. and just 50 worldwide, offering a unique combination of immersive environments and precise data collection. The CAREN system is a vital tool for Midwestern's faculty healthcare providers and researchers, enabling a deeper understanding of human movement, balance, and rehabilitation. View demos and meet the bioengineers behind the scenes!