



Special to the Independent  
**Health careers program graduates Audra Hineman, Holly Hauptman and Alys Oxentenko stand with Scottsdale Healthcare Director of Talent Acquisition and Development Judie Goe, graduate and now Scottsdale Healthcare employee Robert Snygg-Carrasco, Scottsdale Healthcare Student Programs Coordinator Leah Hill, SUSD Program Instructor Peg Straus, and SUSD Executive Director of Student and Community Services Milissa Sackos.**

## Scottsdale Healthcare recognized by SUSD for academic partnership

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Individuals like Scottsdale resident Robert Snygg-Carrasco are why the Scottsdale Unified School District recently honored Scottsdale Healthcare for fostering ongoing learning opportunities.

Mr. Carrasco completed the district's Health Careers and Nursing Assistant program while a senior at Saguaro High School. As part of the program, he gained hands-on clinical nursing and observation experiences at Scottsdale Healthcare. Mr. Carrasco graduated from the program as a nursing assistant in 2007 and was hired at Scottsdale Healthcare Shea Medical Center.

"The program provided the foundation and skills I needed. I didn't feel so overwhelmed because I already had the skills to complete my tasks on the floor," said Carrasco, who is now 22 and working at the hospital as a patient care technician while using Scottsdale Healthcare's tuition assistance program to complete prerequisites for a college nursing program.

Approximately 40 students per academic year participate in the Health Careers and Nursing Assistant program, which enables them to explore healthcare career options while simultaneously obtaining high school and college credits.

During a recent SUSD Governing Board meeting, Scottsdale Healthcare was recog-

nized for its longstanding partnership and key role in providing program participants with real-life learning experiences that augment their classroom learning. Mr. Carrasco and other graduates at the meeting noted that the program assisted them in reaching their professional goals and expressed gratitude for the patience and guidance of their preceptors at Scottsdale Healthcare.

"All these former students remember their first real healthcare experiences at Scottsdale Healthcare, from bed baths to hemocult testing, to memorable surgeries, watching childbirths and learning from staff members," said SUSD program instructor Peg Straus.

The partnership between SUSD and Scottsdale Healthcare spans more than 30 years.

According to Scottsdale Healthcare Student Programs Coordinator Leah Hill, Mr. Carrasco is among several program graduates who have been hired by Scottsdale Healthcare and are continuing to pursue their educational goals through the hospital system's tuition assistance program.

"The Health Careers and Nursing Assistant program enables student goals to be realized and Scottsdale Healthcare's workforce to be strengthened," Ms. Hill said.

Scottsdale Healthcare was founded in 1962 and is based in Scottsdale. For more information, visit [www.shc.org](http://www.shc.org).