



# SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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## For Immediate Release

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April 28, 2016

## SFAHS Student Inducted Into Groundbreaking Medical Program

**ROYERSFORD, PA** – The Spring-Ford Area School District is excited to congratulate sophomore Emma Kotes, as she was recently inducted into The Clinic's *Girls In Medicine* program. GIM is the first "girls only" healthcare training program in Pennsylvania.

The Clinic, founded in 2001 by two women, provides comprehensive medical care to the uninsured, and helps bridge healthcare's gender gap. The duo developed "Girls in Medicine," a week-long intensive and year-long mentoring program for high school girls in Chester County, Montgomery County. The hands-on, hospital-based curriculum and stimulating mentorship are designed to create tomorrow's healthcare leaders.

"The program is designed to increase self-esteem, confidence and leadership among girls at an early age, so they understand the academic, social and emotional challenges of women working in healthcare," said Marrea Walker-Smith, Director of Girls In Medicine.

**About Girls In Medicine:** GIM is a one-year program for high school girls authored by The Clinic and supported by Phoenixville Hospital and Paoli Hospital. The program kicks-off with a Summer Intensive held at Paoli Hospital and Phoenixville Hospital from August 22-26, 2016. After successfully completing the Summer Healthcare Intensive, participants meet monthly with their mentors to guide them on developing their health program or research project in their school or community environments. For participants interested in continuing to increase their healthcare experience in the hospital setting during the after-school or weekend hours, Phoenixville Hospital will consider them for volunteer positions working in other areas of the hospital such as Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics or Obstetrics.

### **There are 6 objectives to the GIM Program:**

1. Increase the knowledge of medical specialties and the patient populations they treat.
2. Provide low-income females with learning opportunity to break cycles of poverty
3. Raise awareness of the variety of career paths in health care beyond physicians.
4. Gain hands on experiences in various hospital departments.
5. Provide CPR / First Aid certification classes
6. Present the Healthcare Ambassador opportunity

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