Dr. T amika Webb-Detiege heads the OPTIMUS Mentoring Program that provides education and career options in medicine, hands-on training, and extracurricular activities. The program participants in CPR races, guided Stop the Bleed training. And for fun and exercise, everyone participated in STEM exploration and health education programming.

Trainee Students attended healthcare exploration field trips at the Ochsner Medical Center on Jefferson Highway. Guided by the experts, students took part in nursing skills training and learned about communicable diseases. What's more, Ochsner's Stimulation Center for Kids offered a series of activities and volunteers from OchsnerServes supported the underserved middle school students. The science team of the Harriet Tubman Charter Montessori School led the activities and volunteers from OchsnerServes supported the underserved middle school students.

Chapter One connects students who need practice with fundamental reading skills with virtual reading volunteers from OchsnerServes, contributing over 3,200 minutes of one-on-one tutoring with 1st grade students at the Dr. John Ochsner Community School. Over time, the engagement has demonstrated a positive impact on student confidence, vocabulary and knowledge of the world.

Research shows that a child who can read is prepared for life – not just kindergarten. The practice of medicine to prepare students for life is a core commitment of the Ochsner Health - Chapter One Ready, Set, Read! Partnership. Chapter One students who achieve reading proficiency by the end of first grade are more likely to do well in school and can improve their future job opportunities.

The partnership has allowed me to take my years of clinical experience and use it to create a lasting impression on young patients. Among the Ochsner Health professionals scheduled to present at the Autism Acceptance Webinars are Travis Costanza, MEd and Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist; Erin Reuther, PhD, ABPP, Clinical & Pediatric Health Psychologist; Mimi Gary, BSN, RN, CPN, Supervisor, Ochsner Specialty Care; and Alex Deters, BSN, RN, Director, Ochsner Community Health.

Chapter One's tutoring program is one of the pillars of the partnership. In this month's newsletter, you'll also learn how Ochsner Health is championing the Ochsner Health - Chapter One Partnership, as we celebrate Autism Acceptance Month.

The Ochsner Health professionals scheduled to present at the Autism Acceptance Webinars are Travis Costanza, MEd and Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist; Erin Reuther, PhD, ABPP, Clinical & Pediatric Health Psychologist; Mimi Gary, BSN, RN, CPN, Supervisor, Ochsner Specialty Care; and Alex Deters, BSN, RN, Director, Ochsner Community Health.

For more information, please visit the OchsnerServes website at www.ochsnerserves.org/autism.

In other news, parades are still rolling across the region. Our March 18. Put those extra Mardi Gras and St Patrick's Day throws to good use by giving back to our community. Everyone is getting their green on with St. Patrick's Day approaching. March 17. What better time to learn more about and encourage your children to adopt a healthful lifestyle.

In this month's newsletter, you'll also learn how Ochsner Health is celebrating Women's History Month. This is our opportunity to take a moment to say thank you to the influential and loving community leaders, medical professionals, educators and family role models who have shared their inspiration and wisdom and inspired us.

And we close this month's newsletter message with a nod to Women's History Month. This is our opportunity to take a moment to say thank you to the influential and loving community leaders, medical professionals, educators and family role models who have shared their inspiration and wisdom and inspired us.