

# FSU medical and nursing students in Immokalee for spring break

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(Photo: Special to the Democrat)

For some Florida State medical and nursing students, a spring-break trip to Southwest Florida won't involve a visit to the beach or a bar. This year, like every year since the Florida State College of Medicine had its first class in 2001, students will be giving out medical supplies and treatment – and getting a cultural education in return. They are spending much of their spring break in Immokalee.

Three faculty members, including FSUCares faculty adviser Karen Myers, are traveling with the team. They also are working with Javier Rosado, director of clinical training in Immokalee, and with other FSU College of Medicine clerkship faculty in Southwest Florida. Six first- and second-year FSU College of Medicine students and four FSU nursing students make up the team.

FSUCares is comprised of FSU College of Medicine students and provides health services such as medical care, education, and counseling to those people who may not otherwise have access to care.

The trip is designed to both provide medical screenings and to learn as part of the college of medicine's effort to develop compassionate physicians who are more likely to choose to care for underserved populations.

While in Immokalee, team members will be busy. They will provide health information to elementary school-age children and assist with physical activity, focus on nutrition, hold informational session related to pesticide exposure & health risks, provide health information & screenings to a local organization of migrant farm workers and talk with high school students about college and careers and other activities. They will also tour a packing house, visit clinic patients for dialogue related to culture, health and migrant life, tour a local farm to learn about agriculture occupations and watch a documentary, Food Chains, filmed in Immokalee.

Before heading south, team members packed medical supplies donated by the Tallahassee community. The team was scheduled to arrive in Immokalee on Friday afternoon and return to Tallahassee on Wednesday.

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