



Bloomsburg Children's Museum

2 W 7th St, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Bloomsburg Children's Museum and Geisinger welcomed children and families on Sunday for Surgeon Jr., a free community program that introduced young learners to the world of medicine and surgery through interactive, hands-on experiences.

Presented by the Bloomsburg Children's Museum and the Geisinger Surgery Institute, Surgeon Jr. gave 92 children ages 6 to 12 the chance to step into the role of surgeon for the day. Families traveled from as far as Lake Ariel and East Stroudsburg to attend the program. Participants learned about the body, examined "patients," gowned and gloved, and rotated through engaging stations featuring activities such as a play-dough appendectomy, laparoscopic surgery on Jell-O, and stations focused on ophthalmology, urology, dentistry and plastics.

The program was led by Rebecca Hoffman, MD, a colon and rectal surgeon at Geisinger, in collaboration with the Bloomsburg Children's Museum. By pairing real-world medical concepts with age-appropriate activities, Surgeon Jr. helped children explore healthcare careers in a way that was both educational and inspiring.

"We are so proud and honored by what we get to do as surgeons, and being able to share this with kids (and adults too!) in our community is such a special experience! We hope that, in partnering with the Bloomsburg Children's Museum to create this immersive experience as "surgeons", we can inspire kids to explore medical professions through truly hands-on learning and interaction. Our goal is that we have provided an opportunity for each child to experiment, imagine, engage, and be excited about science and our amazing bodies in a super fun and risk-free environment that may just stick with them lifelong!"

Organizers reported more than 200 students on the waitlist, underscoring strong community interest in accessible career-awareness opportunities that help children imagine future paths in medicine and related fields.

“Career awareness in healthcare needs to begin early,” said Dr. Ginny Weibel, Executive Director of the Bloomsburg Children’s Museum. “When children can meet medical professionals and take part in hands-on experiences, they begin to imagine themselves in those roles. That early exposure helps build confidence, broaden possibilities and strengthen the future medical workforce our communities will need.”

Surgeon Jr. was supported by the Geisinger Foundation and the Friends of the Bloomsburg Children’s Museum. Through partnerships like this, the Bloomsburg Children’s Museum and Geisinger are helping create meaningful opportunities for children to learn, explore and dream big.