

UNR medical school courts minority students

By Pat Harrison/Gazette-Journal

Fifteen Reno and Las Vegas minority high school students played doctor Monday at Nevada's only medical school, a statesupported university program where white students are the rule, minorities the exception.

The 15, top scholars selected from 44 applicants across the state, will spend a week at the University of Nevada Medical School visiting laboratories, interviewing and socializing with professors, and performing some of the tasks of first-year medical students.

The program's goal is simple but difficult: entice Nevada's top minority

students -- the black, Indians, Mexican Americans and other who seldom apply -- to attend medical school on home turf.

At least three minorities -students who took part in the first scholarship program four years ago -- are expected to enroll this fall.

"It's become clear there are a group of citizens in this state who aren't applying," Joel Lanphear, minority program co-director, said of the university's pitch to nonwhites. "This school is for all Nevadans."

Audrey Montooth, 17, a McQueen High School senior born on a Paiute Indian reservation, is about as Nevadan as one can get.

Sparks could Have new police chief by this weekend

The city of Sparks could in a closed session for nearly have a new police chief by week's end.

Council members, meeting

After conversations with the medical officials last spring and her first day Monday in the Minority High School Scholarship Program, Montooth decided to pursue medicine

"I was interested in accounting but this did it." she said.

Montooth, who's played on McQueen's girls softball and basketball teams, wants to be a sports medicine doctor. And she hopes to do something for her own people.

'I don't mind being treated by someone who isn't Indian," she said. "Last time I had a black doctor. But I'm more outgoing than most Indians. They don't want to talk or communicate. I think I could help -- teach them how to live in today's 90 minutes Monday, discussed personal qualifications of two final candidates for the position.

And although the council wasn't allowed by law to make a final decision during a closed session, a special meeting could be held Friday and the name of the new chief announced, said City Manager Pat Thompson.

Sparks police Capt. Jerry Wike and George Coxey, chief of police in Casa Grande, Ariz., are the final two candidates selected from 60 applicants hoping to replace former police cheif Thomas Hill, who retired June 30. Capt. Ken Lee has been acting chief since Hill's resignation.

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