The philosophy behind this program is that if students understand at an early age the wide range of options in health care, they are more likely to consider a health care career. In addition, if students are made aware of career opportunities in their own home town, they may consider it as a place they can return to after completing higher education.

What is a Scrubs Camp?
Scrubs Camps are one-day events held in rural North Dakota communities to introduce students in grades 5-12 to a variety of careers in health care. Camps are not careers fairs; career fairs provide brief (15 minutes or less) exposure to the professions in an “open house” format. Camps are structured to be at least five hours in length with a minimum of 25 minutes per health profession session, and utilize interactive activities led by local health care professionals. Students learn about specific careers and opportunities available in their communities. Presenters also share their own experience in training and education and what it is like to work in a rural North Dakota community.

Community partners conducting a Scrubs Camp (which must include a local school system, health care entity, and economic or job development authority) can choose to work with multiple grades, one grade, or make attending the camp a competitive process within their community. In order to create more effective interaction between students and presenters, it is recommended that group sessions have no more than 10 participants.

What are the Scrubs Academies I & II?
Scrubs Academies are an expanded version of the Scrubs Camps. They are an opportunity for North Dakota students to participate in numerous sessions covering a multitude of health careers led by local health professionals, instructors, and college students. The Scrubs
How is the Scrubs Program Supported?
The R-COOL-Health Scrubs program is supported by the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration, State Office of Rural Health, and Area Health Education Center (AHEC) grant programs along with state appropriated funds designated for workforce development.