



Undergraduate Pre-Health Program

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS**

The completion of higher education and the acceptance to professional and/or graduate school within healthcare professions are common ambitions for many students in the state of Colorado. The enrollment rates of underrepresented populations in higher education are low and their graduation rates are even lower (Good, Hallpin, & Halpin, 2000). The Undergraduate Pre-Health Program (UPP) has been designed to provide mentorship, academic and community support, internships, and networking opportunities to help increase the number of traditionally underrepresented individuals within the health care professions. Traditionally underrepresented populations are typically restricted to race and ethnicity (Brotherton, 2001; Campbell and Campbell 1997;

Dodson, Montgomery, & Brown, 2009). The element that sets UPP apart from many programs aiming to increase diversity in higher education is that this program not only includes ethnic minorities, but also incorporates low-income and first generation individuals.



UPP's leadership has been able to sustain a program of excellence because of its established partnerships with invested community members, organizations, providers, practitioners and researchers. Some of these partnerships include; Kaiser Permanente's Diversity and Inclusion Center of Expertise, the Colorado Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI), CU School of Dental Medicine, CU School of Medicine, CU College of Nursing, CU School of Pharmacy, CU Denver Graduate School, and Colorado School of Public Health.

Since 2006, UPP has produced qualified candidates that have matriculate into a number of professional and graduate programs. UPP is a 13-month program that provides summer internships for undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career within the health care

profession. The program offers opportunities for students in career exploration from the Colorado School of Public Health, College of Nursing, School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, Graduate School and the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. It combines traditional academics and experiential learning. UPP emphasizes the importance of addressing health disparities, cultural sensitivity and responsiveness. Students are challenged on multiple fronts. Saturday Academies are expected to steep students in various topics in academic health care literature beyond textbooks, including scholarly journal articles. For the duration of the program many of the sessions feature substantial writing components, presentations, and group projects with close attention to style, analytics and substantive content. The multidisciplinary nature of the sessions challenges students to engage with topics and issues from a variety of perspectives. This equips students to think through these issues from a policy, social and cultural point of view and encourages students to integrate these perspectives into their understanding of the topics. Our overall goal has been to increase the number of historically



underrepresented individuals within the health care professions for the purpose of reducing health disparities among underserved communities in Colorado. During the summer students are provided with monetary support to provide for summer earnings.

Through innovation, UPP has identified pockets of resources, for example, through a partnership with Kaplan, students are provided with a scholarship to take a Kaplan Review Course prior to taking MCAT, GRE, PCAT

and DAT. This incentive not only save participants over \$2500, it also provides them leverage that they may not have had otherwise.

Because the program as been successful in producing a large number of diverse candidates for CU Anchutz Medical Campus professional programs, a number of CU Anschutz Medical Campus professional program have agreed to an interview guarantee for UPP participants that successfully complete the program with a written completion statement from UPP leadership.

UPP has served a total of 285 participants. As of today, 155 participants have been accepted and/or gone onto graduate or professional programs. Please, note one of the fellows graduated with her Masters in Public Health and was accepted into Medical School.

With over 51% of former UPP Fellows are already in graduate or professional school programs: 69 in Medical School, 20 in Nursing School, 23 in Dental School, 17 in Graduate School, 11 in

Pharmacy School, 4 in Physician Assistant programs, 8 in Public Health, 1 in Physical Therapy and 2 in Allied Health Careers. The first 15 of our MDs are already doing their residencies, and we have practicing dentists, nurses and pharmacists. This program has assisted in increasing the enrollment of historically ethnic minority populations into programs at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

Over 20 participants have received the Kaiser Permanente Diversity Scholarship. 95.7 percent of our students, once they've graduated from college, have been accepted into graduate or professional program.

