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Health Careers Opportunity Program

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Health Careers Opportunity Program

Tufts University School of Medicine
Center for Community Health Education, Research and Service
Boston Public Schools

Summary/Abstract

Located on the University of Massachusetts Boston campus, the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) is an educational program funded through the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The mission of the program is to create a “pipeline” that starts at the middle and high schools in Boston, continues through the undergraduate programs at Tufts University and UMass Boston, and culminates in the graduate-level public health and/or medical programs at Tufts University School of Medicine or other medical schools.

Goals and Objectives

- Provide guidance with the college application process for undergraduate study and graduate and professional programs.
- Expose participants to the fields of medicine and public health.
- Provide academic support to ensure that students have strong academic records for undergraduate or professional study.

Approaches and Methods

Pre-College Scholars:

During the summer, HCOP Scholars participate in an intensive seven-week program in which they attend classes in math, science, reading and writing, public health, and health careers awareness. Classes meet Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. They also explore the various careers in medicine and public health through workshops, field trips and guest speakers.

During the academic year, Scholars receive after school academic support in the forms of tutoring and advising at UMass Boston. Students also engage in college awareness activities through field trips and attend workshops and conferences. Students also have the opportunity to volunteer to do community service.

Undergraduate Fellows:

During the summer, HCOP Fellows are assisted in finding internships, research opportunities, volunteer service, or other academic preparatory opportunities.

During the academic year, Fellows receive comprehensive tutoring, individual advising and MCAT or GRE preparation classes. Fellows also have the opportunity to explore the fields of medicine and public health by attending conferences, guest lectures and workshops. In addition, they are involved in mentoring relationships with current students at Tufts University School of Medicine.

Results/Impacts

- HCOP currently serves 50 pre-college students and 37 undergraduates.
- 13 of the undergraduate students participated in an MCAT preparatory class.
- 85% of HCOP 10th graders scored at proficient or higher level on the Math section of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), compared to 62% of their peers across the Boston Public Schools (BPS) district.
- 100% of HCOP 10th graders passed the Science section of the MCAS, compared to 82% of their peers across the BPS district.

References and Resources

To enhance the program and services provided, HCOP collaborates with other UMass Boston pre-collegiate and educational support programs and with various departments at the university.

Additional Partnerships, Information and/or Contacts

To learn more about the Health Careers Opportunity Program, contact the HCOP Office at UMass Boston by sending an email to hcop@umb.edu or calling 617.287.5843.