

## Meet Robert Selden, III, DDS, MS . . .

As a child, Robert Selden saw the positive impact that his father, a dentist, had on all of his patients. But it wasn't until he was older that he decided to follow in his father's footsteps, into a career in dentistry. During his undergraduate years, Dr. Selden enrolled in the Science Enrichment Preparation (SEP) Program, the signature undergraduate program of the North Carolina Health Careers Access Program (NC-HCAP). SEP helped strengthen Dr. Selden's medical background by providing an intense science curriculum, providing assistance in test taking and reading proficiency, and allowing him the opportunity to network with the faculty, staff, and administration at the University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Dentistry. Dr. Selden now works in private practice as an orthodontist in North Carolina. He is also an adjunct clinical professor of orthodontics at the UNC School of Dentistry. Dr. Selden is also the incoming President of the Old North State Dental Society



*“The program empowers its students  
and teaches them how to achieve their dreams.”*

### About the Program

- HCOP is authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. Together with the Centers of Excellence (COE), HCOPs function to increase the representation of minority and disadvantaged students in the health professions.
- NC-HCAP offers a variety of programs for pre-college and college students. These programs work to increase the number of disadvantaged and underrepresented minority students educated, trained and employed in the health professions.
- Since its inception in 1979, almost 900 students have completed the SEP Program. Eighty-six percent of them either have completed or are completing health professions training programs.
- For more information about NC-HCAP, please visit: <http://nc-hcap.unc.edu/>

### The Effect of Funding Cuts . . .

- If funding for NC-HCAP was cut, the number of minority and disadvantaged students entering health professions programs would likely decrease. Since the minority community already suffers from a lack of access to care, and they are generally treated by minority health professionals, this will exacerbate the problem in underserved communities.
- NC-HCAP has programs that focus on pre-college students. Without the early opportunity to get involved and learn about possibilities in the health professions, many young minorities might not choose a health professions career. This would negatively impact the health professions pipeline.



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