

## Meet Gretchen G. Petterway, MD . . .

A career in the health professions has been a lifelong goal for Gretchen Petterway. Since childhood, she had dreamed of becoming a physician, and so she planned her studies accordingly. While at Grambling State University, the Mansfield, LA native majored in biology, pre-medicine. It was then that she discovered an undergraduate research apprenticeship program sponsored through the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP). That program gave her the opportunity to study under faculty at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport (LSUHSC-S) in a research lab or clinical setting. When it came time for her medical school admissions test, Gretchen had the benefit of another HCOP sponsored program to help her earn a competitive score. And once she was admitted to LSUHSC-S, she was accepted into yet another HCOP program to help prepare her for the first year of medical school. Today, Dr. Petterway is a first year pediatric resident at LSUHSC-S; she credits the programs in part, for providing opportunities not usually afforded to underprivileged, underserved minorities, and equipping her with the necessary skills to become a stronger medical school applicant, a successful medical student, and a competent physician.



*“A dream, now a reality with HCOP!”*

### 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.
- The LSUHSC-S HCOP includes the Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (UGRAP), the Educational Familiarization Program (EFP), and the Pre-matriculation Enrichment Program (PEP).
- UGRAP is an eight-week program designed to stimulate in undergraduate students, the desire to pursue careers in biomedical research, medicine, and allied health professions.
- The Educational Familiarization Program provides undergraduates the opportunity to improve test performance through a seven-week structured program.
- The PEP is a preparatory program designed to introduce 15 first year medical students to the medical curriculum, including three basic science courses taught in the first year of medical school.
- To demonstrate its commitment to increase the quantity and improve the quality of science education for pre-college and college students grades K-16, LSUHSC-S has forged partnership links with the Caddo Parish School System, the Sci-Port Discovery Center, the Biomedical Research Foundation, and all state colleges/universities. Each partner in the pipeline has agreed to provided one or more of the necessary components – students, space, structured enrichment programs, research activities, or funds – to ensure that the partnership links succeed.
- More information on the LSUHSC-S HCOP program activities is available on the website:  
<http://www.sh.lsuhs.edu/multicultural/front.htm>



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