

Meet Tiffany Groover . . .

Tiffany attended the Boston Public Schools, and while there, joined her first Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), one that was run by Bunker Hill Community College. When it came time for Tiffany to attend college, she chose Tufts, specifically because it also had an HCOP program. She was aware that **her high school preparation meant she had to play catch up with classmates to reach her goal of becoming a doctor.** After graduating, Tiffany took a year to obtain a master’s in public health from Tufts. Once again, the HCOP program was there if she needed it, although she excelled in the graduate program largely without assistance. In her spare time, Tiffany taught biology and public health in a summer academic program for middle and high school students from the Boston Public Schools. And **when it came time to apply to medical school, HCOP was there for support yet again.** Just recently, she was admitted to Tufts (her first choice, of course). All of her supporters were ecstatic: another bright future realized with the help of HCOP.



“As a young girl, many said my dreams were too big; as I grew and faced adversity, I began to believe them. But today, my dream is a reality. Thank you, HCOP.”

About the HCOP 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 University of Massachusetts – Boston HCOP collaborates with Tufts University, Tufts University School of Medicine, and the Massachusetts Public Health Association to create a “pipeline” that starts at Boston middle and high schools, continues through the undergraduate programs at Tufts University, and culminates in public health and medical programs at the Tufts University School of Medicine.
- Visit the programs’ websites for more information on the program activities:
<http://www.hcop.umb.edu>
<http://ase.tufts.edu/commhealth/HCOP.htm>

According to Tiffany . . .

Envisioning the idea of one day becoming a physician, I focused on a premedical curriculum. Unfortunately, my high school experience did not prepare me for the demands of such a curriculum, but HCOP ensured my aspirations were not overcome by this challenge. HCOP provided both financial and emotional support. I will never forget my first HCOP tutor: she was an encouragement, a consoler, a motivator, and to this very day, she remains a mentor, encouraging me to fulfill my dreams.

Although there have been moments when I wanted to give up, HCOP never gave up on me. Without HCOP, I can truly say that I would not be here today having completed the premedical curriculum, the MCAT, and a Masters in Public Health. And most recently, I was accepted to medical school.

As a young girl, many said my dreams were too big; as I grew and faced adversity, I began to believe them. But today, my dream is a reality. I thank you, HCOP, there are no words to express my appreciation.

For more information, contact: **Erica Froyd** (efroyd@aamc.org) or **Tannaz Rasouli** (trasouli@aamc.org)

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