

Meet Tia C. Manning . . .

Tia Manning acknowledges that the path to her long list of accomplishments is paved with support from the Title VII programs she participated in along the way. As an undergraduate student at The College of New Jersey, Tia participated in a variety of summer programs through the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). Those programs helped confirm her love for medicine and strengthen her application. Once she was accepted to New Jersey Medical School’s (NJMS) Class of 2007, the HCOP FIRST program for incoming medical students helped ease her transition into the rigors of a medical curriculum. Later, Tia continued her involvement in the programs, serving as a teaching assistant for other programs sponsored through the school’s HCOP and its Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE). Today, after a lot of hard work and a little help from HCOP, Tia is on her way to fulfilling her dream.



“Summer research through HCOP proved to be a valuable and rewarding educational experience ...As a direct result of my involvement, I found an interest in clinical research.”

About the Program

- The Health Careers Opportunity 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.
- Program activities include enhancing academic performance of minorities and other individuals from underserved backgrounds; increasing the recruitment and retention of faculty; increasing the school’s diversity through the recruitment and retention of Latino faculty; and developing the capacity of all graduates to provide culturally competent health care services.
- More information on the program activities is available on the website:

<http://njms.umdj.edu/education/hcoe>

According to Tia . . .

Summer research through HCOP proved to be a valuable and rewarding educational experience. Before participating firsthand in biomedical research, I had not thought to add it to my career goals. However, as a direct result of my involvement, I found an interest in clinical research.

After successfully gaining admission to NJMS, I was invited to participate in the FIRST program. Like many new medical students, I was told of the rigors of medical school and of what would be required for success. There is nothing like personal experience, however, to confirm the warnings of predecessors. The FIRST program provided both evidence of what I had been told, and a means to find social and academic support from other students in study groups and from faculty.

As a teaching assistant, I was able to see firsthand the effects these programs have on future health care professionals from the viewpoint of an educator. If those students had not been afforded the opportunity to take part in the programs, a great disservice would have been done, not only to them, but all those who come after them, and all those whom they will serve during their lives.



For more information, contact: **Erica Froyd** (efroyd@aamc.org) or **Tannaz Rasouli** (trasouli@aamc.org)
 Association of American Medical Colleges, Office of Governmental Relations
 2450 N Street NW • Washington, DC 20037 • Ph: 202.828.0525 • Fax: 202.862.6218

See more Profiles of Success at: <http://www.aamc.org/advocacy/laborhhs/healthprof/profiles.htm>