

# Meet Renée D. Enriquez . . .

At age 16, Renée Enriquez thought she might want to be a physician – she just wasn’t sure if she knew exactly what being a physician would actually entail. That summer, she participated in a program sponsored by the Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). Through the program, Renée was able to take her career of choice for a “test drive” by observing medical students, shadowing physicians, and taking condensed medical courses. With that firsthand experience, Renée was confident that medicine was the field for her. After graduating magna cum laude from Montclair State University, she enrolled in New Jersey Medical School where she is currently a member of the Class of 2009. Today, she lives the dream her sixteen-year-old self once dared to consider.



*“I was exposed to a world of medicine that sixteen year olds usually don’t get to see ... The Hispanic Center of Excellence offered me opportunities that helped me shape my future.”*

## About the Program

- The Centers of Excellence (COE) are authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. Together with the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), COEs function to increase the representation of minority and disadvantaged students in the health professions.
- Program activities include enhancing academic performance of Latinos 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 HCOE program activities is available on the program website:

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

## According to Renée . . .

It is amazing how one summer can impact a young person’s life. I was only sixteen when I attended the Summer Youth Program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. However, I was exposed to a world of medicine that sixteen year olds usually don’t get to see. I was given a firsthand look at the workings of a hospital and the lifestyles of a medical student. I attended an abridged anatomy course, rounded with attending physicians in the hospital, and participated in many educational workshops. Education through experience is the key to teaching medicine. It is also the best way to guide young, aspiring physicians into the world of medicine.

These experiences not only prepared me for a future in medicine, they confirmed my belief that I was made to be a physician. The Hispanic Center of Excellence offered me opportunities that helped me shape my future. Hopefully, HCOE will be able to continue to educate and mentor those young students interested in pursuing a career in health care.



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