

Meet Marcos M. Martinez . . .

After graduating from the University of Florida in 2002, Marcos Martinez began to seriously consider a career in medicine. He was eager to apply but didn't know how to best prepare for the MCAT. Then he discovered a preparation course offered through the Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). The course helped him strengthen his score, and soon, he was enrolled at New Jersey Medical School. Wanting to give back, Marcos volunteered through the HCOE to help incoming medical school students. Having excelled in his anatomy/embryology and histology/physiology courses, he was selected to become a tutor. And this fall, he was awarded the Alumni Association Scholarship for Academic Excellence. Today, with the help of the HCOE, he has fulfilled one dream, as he looks forward to a career in surgery.



“Because of the HCOE, I was able to realize my dream of getting accepted into medical school ... Hopefully, when I realize my dream of becoming a surgeon, I will be able to look back and see that the HCOE is continuing to make it possible for others to also achieve their dreams.”

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 Marcos . . .

I was fortunate enough to be a participant in the MCAT program in the summer of 2004. The MCAT program allowed me to adequately prepare for the MCAT with a structured study regimen, instruction and study materials. As a result of the training, I was able to perform well on the exam and thereby strengthen my application for medical school. Because of the Hispanic COE, I was able to realize my dream of getting accepted into medical school.

My first year of medical school, I achieved honors in all of my courses. Feeling appreciative of the opportunity given to me, I decided to give back by becoming a Teacher's Assistant in another one of HCOE's program, the FIRST program for incoming medical school students. If not for the doors opened to me by the Hispanic Center of Excellence, I would never have been able to accomplish these achievements. In the future, hopefully, when I realize my dream of becoming a surgeon, I will be able to look back and see that the HCOE is continuing to make it possible for others to also achieve their dreams.



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