

Meet Anthony D. Atkins, MD . . .

From inner-city Detroit, where he was on the verge of joining a gang to sell drugs, to underserved Lima, Ohio, where he practices as a family physician, Dr. Anthony Atkins has come a long way. Growing up in Detroit, Dr. Atkins chose the positive path and joined the U.S. Air Force as a medic. In 1991, his participation in a post-baccalaureate Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) at The Ohio State University College of Medicine helped prepare him for medical school and a residency in family practice. Today, Dr. Atkins has dedicated his life to assisting underserved populations. He provides information to medically underserved groups about health care and developed health clinics in an underserved neighborhood of Lima. His “Lifestoryz” project is a rap/R&B CD that strives to deliver positive, informational messages to help inner-city youth make the right choices. And through his own experiences, this HCOP grad is a role model for minority and disadvantaged students choosing to pursue a medical career.



Photo courtesy of The Ohio State University Medical Center

“The MEDPATH program gave me the opportunity to reach my goal of becoming a physician ... If I was not where I am, there would be many sick people not getting health care, including black, white, Asian, Hispanic, and the working poor populations.”

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 Ohio State University College of Medicine runs the Medical Careers Pathways (MEDPATH) Post-baccalaureate program, which received HCOP funding from 1990 to 1996.
- MEDPATH prepares students for medical school studies by fostering mentoring. A camaraderie develops among students, to assist each other and make achievements together. The program also sponsors community projects and promotes concern about the health care of medically underserved communities.

According to Dr. Atkins . . .

The MEDPATH post-baccalaureate program gave me the opportunity to reach my goal of becoming a physician. I am able to reach other minorities with proof that becoming a doctor is real. I received a Health Service Corps Scholarship in medical school, which proved my dedication to the underserved. I have started an inner-city health clinic in Lima, Ohio and was awarded a grant for our efforts to serve people in need of health care. I have produced a rap CD to help inner-city kids do the right thing and make good choices. If I were not where I am, there would be many sick people not getting health care, including black, white, Asian, Hispanic, and the working poor populations.

More information on the MEDPATH program and its activities is available on the program website:

<http://medicine.osu.edu/odca/medpath/cfm>



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>