

Meet Bonnie Her . . .

Bonnie's goal to become a physician is in direct contrast with her Hmong background. The Hmong are mountain people from Laos who immigrated to this country as a result of the Vietnam War; a very different culture has made the transition to life in the U.S. difficult. In the Hmong tradition, Bonnie was married at age fourteen while a freshman in high school, had her first child at fifteen, and her second while a junior in college. She is the first female in a household of eleven to graduate from college. As the integration of two extremely different cultures, Bonnie is determined to make a positive impact in her community. She serves as a mentor for Hmong women interested in entering the medical field. As a liaison between practicing physicians and the Hmong community, Bonnie has helped countless patients avoid needless suffering due to a fear and misunderstanding of Western medicine and procedures. And as a Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) graduate, Bonnie is a medical student at Drexel, on track to fulfill her dream and help her community even more.



Bonnie's familiarity with the Hmong culture has helped her effectively liaise between practicing physicians and Hmong patients in her community. Now, as an HCOP graduate, Bonnie is in medical school, realizing her dream of becoming a physician.

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 Drexel Pathway to Medical School Program (DPMS) is funded through HCOP.
- The DPMS program includes conditional acceptance to the College of Medicine. Disadvantaged applicants have the unique opportunity to prove their ability to succeed in a medical school program by taking a rigorous program of courses in a medical school environment. After successful completion of the DPMS program, the students will retain their admission into the College of Medicine.
- A maximum of 20 students are accepted into the program each year, allowing for small group instruction during the summer enrichment program and individual counseling with an administrative advocate throughout the program.
- The program begins with a mandatory six-week Academic Assessment and Counseling Enrichment Sessions, and a one-credit "Medical Science Preparation" course exploring biochemistry, pharmacology, and physiology. Upon successful completion of this introduction, DPMS students take one year of medical school courses.
- More information on the HCOP program activities is available on the program website:
 - <<http://www.drexelmed.edu/PostBaccalaureatePremedPrograms/Programs/DPMSProgram/tabid/671/Default.aspx>>



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