

Meet Candace L. White . . .

As a first generation college student from the rural town of Gray, TN, Candace White was happy to find the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) at East Tennessee State University's (ETSU) Quillen College of Medicine. Though the thought of attending medical school could be daunting at times, her undergraduate HCOP experiences convinced Candace that she could not be nearly as satisfied by pursuing any other career. Through the HCOP-funded Doctors of Tomorrow program, Candace completed a series of clinical rotations that allowed her to experience firsthand the day-to-day activities of various physicians. From there, Candace pursued a variety of other activities through HCOP, including clinical shadowing, internships, and research. Happily committed to her dream of becoming a physician, Candace is now a first-year medical student at Quillen. Her goal is to assist underserved communities as a primary care physician, a goal that does not seem nearly as overwhelming today as it once did.



“Because of HCOP, I am currently a first year medical student (rural track) at Quillen College of Medicine and plan to enter a field of primary care targeting underserved communities.”

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 Doctors of Tomorrow program is one of several programs offered in the PATHWAY to Health Careers pipeline at ETSU's Quillen College of Medicine, funded with a three-year HCOP grant. The program offers premedical students extensive exposure to clinical settings, as well as workshops to enhance their competitiveness as medical school applicants.
- More information on Doctors of Tomorrow and other HCOP programs at ETSU Quillen College of Medicine is available on the program website:

<http://www.etsu.edu/hcop>

According to Candace . . .

HCOP essentially enlightened me to the practice, not just the science, of medicine. I fully believe that my clinical experience – serving as a glimpse of the final product that all medical students enslave themselves for – will keep me motivated throughout my first two years of medical school, whereas many of my fellow medical students are questioning their decision to pursue medicine. For this reason alone, I consider my HCOP internship invaluable.

Furthermore, HCOP has provided me with indispensable resources and contacts through which I have been able to further my interests and experiences in medicine – through additional clinical shadowing and internships as well as research. Because of HCOP, I am currently a first year medical student (rural track) at Quillen College of Medicine, and plan to enter a field of primary care targeting underserved communities. Without the HCOP internship, I most assuredly would not be as well-rounded or well-informed regarding the practice of medicine, nor would I be nearly as well prepared to enter the profession.



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