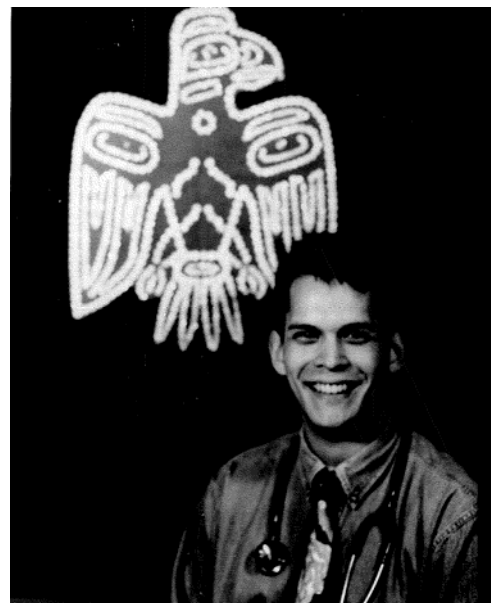


## Meet Chris Sargent, MD . . .

Originally from Alaska, Dr. Chris Sargent is Tlingit. In 1991, Dr. Sargent participated in the University of Washington, School of Medicine's (UWSOM) Minority Medical Education Program, sponsored by the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP). The program helped guide his application to UWSOM. Once accepted, the school's Prematriculation Program helped ease his transition to medical school. Soon, he discovered the Native American Center of Excellence (NACOE). Through NACOE, Dr. Sargent received certification in Indian Health and was actively involved in the Medicine Wheel Society, an organization that brings together the people, the tradition and customs, and the spirit that enables American Indian/Alaskan Native medical students to maintain their sense of community. Today, Dr. Sargent is a board certified family physician and mentor to other medical students. He continues to be involved in COE's Faculty Development Seminars, receiving CME credits to receive further training on how to best work with Native American patients.



*"I'm grateful to the COE at UWSOM for its role in my medical education and career in family medicine . . . This training was essential and directly applicable to the first 5 years of my medical career in Indian Health Service and tribal health clinics and hospitals."*

### About the Program

- The NACOE is a Center of Excellence (COE), which is 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.
- As a regional medical school, UWSOM students come mostly from Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho; students complete their first year in their home states, and come to Seattle for the rest of their training. Thus, the UWSOM HCOP and COE grants directly benefit students from all five states.
- More information on the NACOE program activities is available on the program website:

<http://faculty.washington.edu/dacosta/nacoe/nacoehome.html>

### According to Dr. Sargent . . .

I'm grateful to the Center of Excellence (COE) at the University of Washington, School of Medicine for its role in my medical education and career in family medicine. The Minority Medical Education Program was an important stepping stone in my successful application to the UW School of Medicine in 1991.

My medical school curriculum included the COE's Indian Health Pathway program which provided a formal understanding of the integration of medicine and Native American culture. This training was essential and directly applicable to the first 5 years of my medical career in Indian Health Service and tribal health clinics and hospitals. The staff of the COE have been teachers, mentors and supporters throughout my medical training, and continue to be a positive influence in my medical career.



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