

Meet Steve Williamson, MD . . .

Dr. Steve Williamson is a member of the Blackfeet tribe. A Montana resident, Dr. Williamson attended the University of Washington, School of Medicine (UWSOM), and participated in a number of programs sponsored by the school's Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) and Native American Center of Excellence (NACOE): Summer Medical & Dental Education Program, the Prematriculation Program, Indian Health Pathway, CME courses, and Medicine Wheel Society. These programs helped Dr. Williamson blend Native traditions and culture with his medical education, and provided him with a support network of fellow Native physicians. After graduating in 1997, he completed his Family Medicine residency at the University of Wyoming Family Medicine Program in 2000. He then paid back his Indian Health Service scholarship obligation at the Blackfeet Community Hospital in Browning, Montana. Currently Dr. Williamson is working at Billings Clinic in Billings, Montana, primarily in outpatient Family Medicine.



“I'm definitely a COE beneficiary!! These activities helped me tremendously. Without them, my career goals would have been much more difficult to achieve. The COE staff has always been encouraging, supportive, and friendly.”

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.
- The HCOP and NACOE at UWSOM sponsor a number of programs, including Summer Medical & Dental Education Program, Prematriculation Program, Indian Health Pathway, and Medicine Wheel Society.
- The primary goals of the programs are to attract Native American and Alaska Native students into the study and practice of medicine, to recognize Native healing traditions and integrate them into Western medical education, and to encourage research into Native health issues.
- The Indian Health Pathway certification program prepares both Native and non-Native medical students for careers in American Indian Health. The IHP provides a unique educational experience through the use of specialized lecture series, problem-base learning, immersion clinical experiences in medical practices that serve the American Indian/Alaskan Native communities, and research opportunities.
- More information on the activities is available on the program website:
<http://faculty.washington.edu/dacosta/nacoe/nacoehome.html>



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