

## Meet Adella Deacon, DPT . . .

As a student at North Division High School, Adella was quite active – she played basketball, tennis, track, and softball. The injuries she suffered as a result helped spark her curiosity to pursue physical therapy as a career. But while Adella was a strong student – juggling the demands of biochemistry, physiology, and gross anatomy while serving as student council president – the academic performance of her school was among the poorest in the Milwaukee Public School System. At age 17, Adella discovered the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) at Marquette University, which helped her prepare for her academic future. After further research on her field of choice, Adella graduated from North Division and enrolled at Marquette University, where she earned a degree in Exercise Science. Still active in HCOP and growing ever more passionate for her career choice, Adella’s competitive edge helped guide her to professional school: she earned her Doctorate of Physical Therapy in 2005, and realized her dream.



*“HCOP gave me a head start by giving me exposure to some of the courses and concepts I would come across when I got to college ...I did not come from a competitive high school, so it kind of gave me a chance to catch up.”*

### 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 Marquette University HCOP programs range from recruitment efforts at local middle schools to retention of students enrolled in professional programs at Marquette.
- Students accepted into the program can receive a wide range of services, including tutorial assistance, personal counseling, and academic advising.
- Many HCOP students also give back by coordinating programs, working as peer advisers, and serving as mentors in the high school programs.
- More information on the Marquette program activities is available on the program website:

[http://www.marquette.edu/programs/special/hcop/index.shtml/](http://www.marquette.edu/programs/special/hcop/index.shtml)

### According to Adella . . .

I have been involved with HCOP since I was 17 years old. I believe I have been in or involved with every program they offer. I really thought it was worth my while. HCOP gave me a head start by giving me exposure to some of the courses and concepts I would come across when I got to college. It was really beneficial to me because I did not come from a competitive high school, so it kind of gave me a chance to catch up.

I am currently working in Chicago near Midway airport for a company called ATI. They have recently just expanded into the Milwaukee area and have two, soon to be three, clinics. About half of my case load is worker’s comp patients. I also see a number of Latino patients, so I am slowly but surely learning Spanish. We do perform some pro bono work on a case-by-case basis. I currently have three people on my schedule that are being seen for free.



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