Meet Benjamin Danielson, MD...

Dr. Benjamin Danielson has always been a firm believer in social justice, with a passion for a career in medicine. As a student at the University of Washington, School of Medicine (UWSOM), he benefited greatly from the support and mentorship provided to him by the staff of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP). His participation in HCOP helped solidify his medical aspirations, and his dedication to eliminating health disparities among minority communities has never wavered. After graduating from UWSOM in 1992, Dr. Danielson is now serving as Medical Director of the Odessa Brown Children’s Clinic and actively mentors minority medical students as a preceptor-teacher. Dr. Danielson is a true role model and mentor, and is actively committed to helping to increase diversity in the health professions and eliminating health disparities among racial and ethnic groups.

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. In addition to HCOP, UWSOM also operates a Native American COE.

- 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 HCOP focuses on student recruitment and development at the high school level through college using career counseling, application and admissions assistance at each academic step, student retention assistance, and the timely dissemination of financial aid information for students to better prepare for the rigors of advanced academic training.

- The primary goals of the NACOE 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.

- More information on the NACOE activities is available on the program website:

For more information, contact: Association of American Medical Colleges, Governmental Relations
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