HCOP-COE Profiles of Success

New Jersey

Meet Felipe Guzman…

Felipe was born in the large city of Newark, N.J. Growing up in a one room apartment with his mother and father, he learned to live and love his Peruvian heritage. Throughout middle school and high school, peer pressure lured many of his friends into gangs, drugs and misconduct. Felipe was often criticized for wanting to learn as much as he could and to one day become a physician. Even as pressures grew, he continued to focus on his school, particularly in the subjects of math and science.

With the help of his guidance counselors, Felipe had the opportunity to participate in the Mini-Med program at the New Jersey Medical School, as well as the NERA MedPrep Program. During his participation in the Mini-Med Program, Felipe was exposed to medical students and doctors working, found the fast pace and the material presented to be truly exciting and fascinating, and was more inspired in becoming a physician.

The program meant so much to him because it initiated his desire to enter medicine. In addition, The MedPrep program proved to be a vital component in his life, in that it made him a much more informed and competitive medical school applicant. Felipe is currently a senior at Rutgers University and was accepted to NJMS as an early decision student to the Class of 2016.

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About the Program

The Health Careers Opportunity Programs (HCOP) are 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.

Program activities include an intense reading and science enrichment program during Phase 1 MCAT preparation during Phase 2 and research during Phase 3. Each phase is supplemented with clinical experiences.

More information on the HCOP program activities is available on the program website:

http://njms.umdnj.edu/education/ODACE/NERA/index.cfm

According to Felipe…

As a NERA MedPrep scholar, I had the opportunity to shadow a world renowned cardiologist in the Critical Care Unit of University hospital in Newark. Along with an intense MCAT study schedule, I experienced the environment where medical students learn and was able to talk and interact with many of them prior to applying to medical school. Ultimately, it is expected that NERA scholars will have the humanism, professionalism and interpersonal skills required of a future physician caring for a diverse population. With so many resources provided to me by both the New Jersey Medical School and NERA MedPrep program, I was able to be more focused on my goal of becoming a physician and was accepted to the New Jersey Class of 2016.