HCOP-COE Profiles of Success

Meet Jesus Rosado...

Jesus, a Puerto Rican, realized at a young age that his calling was in the service and care of others. As a child who was in and out of hospitals with severe asthma, physicians became his role models, and in essence, his super heroes. He dreamed of one day being amongst their ranks helping to care for and save the lives of the sick, but it seemed like a very distant and unattainable goal as a child of a single parent who barely had achieved a high school diploma. His mother told him that if it was his dream, hard work and determination could make his dreams possible.

Years later he discovered that there were those who were willing and able to help guide, instruct, and foster his dreams. These individuals came into his life in the summer after his sophomore year in high school. At that time he participated in the Summer Youth Scholars program at New Jersey Medical School (NJMS). This would be just the first of many programs offered through the Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) at NJMS Jesus would participate in. Over the years, Jesus worked hard and followed the guidance and assistance he had received through the HCOE.

After completing high school, he continued his studies at the University of Pennsylvania, completing a bachelors in neurobiology. Upon finishing his undergraduate career, he began the road to becoming a physician by returning to NJMS, this time as a medical student working on his own degree and the completion of his dreams. Now as he enters his last year of medical school and begins planning for his residency training and the final part of his journey toward completing his goals, he remembers the help and guidance the HCOE has given him and continues to work to pay that same guidance forward to future generations.

"The HCOE program and NJMS are very much about their students... they really care and help us to succeed."

About the Program

The Centers of Excellence (COE) programs are authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. Together with the Health Careers Opportunity Programs (HCOP), COEs 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 Jesus...

As a child from a low income Puerto Rican family, it was at times very tough to believe that becoming a physician was an attainable dream. But I have been fortunate enough to encounter the HCOE at NJMS and all they have to offer. I have participated in various programs through the HCOE at NJMS since high school; the first of which was the Summer Youth Scholars Program. They have been with me every step of the way since high school, helping me get into college and medical school, and even today help me as I continue to move forward with my career goals.

Returning to NJMS as a medical student and being able to talk to students who are actually doing HCOP programs I did years ago and seeing how they’re going through the same process I went through, and being able to help them has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It is amazing to see where I came from, how long I’ve been here and everything I have achieved, thanks in large part to the Hispanic Center of Excellence and NJMS. They have been with me every step of the way, ensuring that my dreams would become a reality.