HCOP-COE Profiles of Success

Meet Amatullah Saafir…

Amatullah was born in East Orange, New Jersey, was homeschooled until her sophomore year of high school and did not know how to navigate entry into college. It was while attending Essex County Community College in Newark that she first learned about the NERA MedPrep program at the New Jersey Medical School. By this time, Amatullah had decided on becoming a physician, but had no idea how to go about reaching her goal. Without much guidance and awaiting the coming of her first child, she enrolled in the MedPrep Summer MCAT & Research Programs at NJMS and her decision proved successful. The MedPrep program became a vital component in her life, in that it made her a much more informed and competitive medical school applicant. It also provided her and other participants with a tight family of support, and a diverse group of people who are working together to insure her success and the success of her peers. Amatullah is currently a senior at Rutgers University and was recently 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 Amatullah…

I had the opportunity to participate in two phases of MedPrep, both of which offered invaluable experiences that laid the foundation for my success in gaining admittance to medical school. Having undergone the intense MCAT preparatory course that makes up phase II, I had no need for any other supplemental prep courses. Furthermore, the daily interaction we received with the faculty and medical students gave me a more personal relationship with both medicine and NJMS. Before the program, the idea of medical school seemed so abstract and distant. However, MedPrep helped expose me to the medical field and instantly made me feel as if I was part of an extended support family. Money can't buy that kind of positive interaction. Upon my completion in the NERA Program, I saw myself in a whole new different light. I saw myself as a genuine scholar, and as a scientist. This confidence has since been carrying me through my journey. I am thankful for all the effort and investment that this program has made in my life.

For more information, contact: Association of American Medical Colleges, Government Relations
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See more Profiles of Success at: https://www.aamc.org/advocacy/hpnec/profiles.htm