The AAMC GSA Professional Development Initiative Overview

In 2012, a core group of constituents and AAMC leaders began conversations exploring how to leverage and enhance professional development and talent management practices across the GSA community. The dynamic and challenging medical school environment students must maneuver through requires student advocates now more than ever to be at their best. The result was the charter of the AAMC GSA Professional Development Initiative (PDI).

Our Vision

The AAMC GSA PDI is a strategic, collaborative partnership between the AAMC and GSA community dedicated to engage, support, and empower all GSA professionals - inclusive of support staff through deans and faculty across all areas of student affairs in medical education - to:

- Strive for and sustain a benchmark of excellence across the GSA community in service of our students and community,
- Collaborate across the community and challenge the status quo to rise to meet the demands of today and tomorrow, and
- Strengthen the GSA community’s position as a vital contributor in the development of future physicians and quality patient care.

Our Strategic Approach

Under the guidance of dedicated, constituent-led Regional Teams (Appendix A) and the GSA Steering Committee sponsorship, the AAMC has led the execution of a multi-pronged strategic approach to realize the GSA PDI vision.

In 2013-14, the GSA Performance Framework was developed and validated. Over 200 experts across the GSA community were engaged in extensive discussion, research, and validation interviews. This effort also confirmed alignment between the Framework and relevant LCME standards.

In 2015, the focus was on the GSA Community through two main efforts. One effort was the introduction and integration of the GSA Performance Framework. This consisted of Professional Development Support activities such as the creation of a comprehensive professional development support toolkit, implementation of the GSA PDI webpages, and workshops at regional meetings. The second effort was a formal assessment of the GSA community’s professional development needs and learning preferences. These findings will lay the groundwork for the prioritization and development of high-value learning solutions and the reinforcement of building a collaborative Community of Practices in 2016 and beyond.

Our Measures of Success

We will monitor our success through various mechanisms as we execute the GSA PDI strategy. Measures will ensure we are progressing on our mission to help all GSA professionals:

- Stay relevant in the dynamic medical school environment.
- Realize their potential and a fulfilling career in student affairs.
- Work collaboratively within and across student affairs areas at their schools.
- Develop a strong network of collegial support in the student affairs medical school community.

For further information on the AAMC GSA PDI and available support, go to www.aamc.org/gsapdi and/or send a message to GSApro-develop@aamc.org.

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APPENDIX A – Initiative Constituent Regional Teams

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