



## Recruiting Underrepresented Students Into The Health Professions

On behalf of Urban Health Program (UHP) welcome to the UIC campus!

For many notable reasons the Urban Health Program (UHP) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) boasts itself as the Program to improve the quality of health care services for medically underserved urban populations. The Program mission is to expand health professions education opportunities for underrepresented groups and others interested in serving in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Illinois. I credit the Urban Health Program directors for continuously stepping up to the plate and making aggressive moves that pay off.

The College of Medicine has been extremely successful at increasing the number of eligible targeted minority applicants to the College. A major accomplishment is the increase in the number of eligible African American students from 69 in 2000 to 230 in 2004 and Hispanic/Latino(a) American students from 47 in 2000 to 174 in 2004. This year, the College experienced the largest graduating class of minority students (57) since 2001.

The UHP Directors have made drastic moves to recruit students into the health professions. This year alone, the College of Dentistry developed new programming for pre-dental students, which increased the number of admissions applications received from underrepresented minority students.

During the past five years, the health sciences colleges and Graduate College have increased the number of prospective UHP students by increasing the numbers of group and individual contacts at recruitment events. The Graduate College had a dramatic increase in the number of recruitment and outreach events coordinated by the College. Of the 19 UHP students in this year's Graduate College Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP), five students were admitted to UHP graduate/professional programs at UIC. Of the top 50 research universities in the country, UIC is the most ethnically diverse institution.

The School of Public Health, in the past ten years among U.S. students, has exceeded the national enrollment average of disadvantaged African American and Hispanic/Latino(a) from health professions shortage areas. In addition, between 2000 and 2004, disadvantaged African American and Hispanic/Latino(a) accounted for an average of 25.4% of students enrolled at UIC School of Public Health and 27% of all UIC School of Public Health graduates. Over 75% of graduates in the past ten years work in and among residents of communities in Health Professions Shortage Areas.

To achieve its recruitment goal the College of Nursing is formulating partnerships with both internal and external organizations to promote the nursing professions.

We are excited about the College of Pharmacy's partnership with CVS/Pharmacy, Osco, Chicago Public Schools and with several grassroots



organizations to offer a pharmacy workforce development program targeting Chicago high school students. The reward for such endeavors has been a heightened awareness of the pharmacy profession among under-represented minority students. Approximately 20% of the 2005 Pharmacy applicant pool were minorities.

Finally, the UHP Early Outreach Program, our Saturday College pipeline component continues its success to graduate 100% of its students and enroll 98% in baccalaureate degree granting institutions. Approximately 23% enroll at one of the University of Illinois campuses. The average GPA of graduating seniors is 3.1 on a 4.0 scale and the average ACT score is 23.

We have worked to develop a strong leadership team of UHP Directors, campus partners and Community Advisory Council members who are dedicated and committed to the UHP mission.

We invite you to visit the Administrative Office to learn more about the Program.

Rosalyn Beecham-Green, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost  
and Executive Director  
Urban Health Program

# Student Recruitment and Retention Activities

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual UHP Statewide Student Health Professions Conference for Middle and High School Students



From left to right: Dr. Michael Toney, Director, UHP Student Programs and Assessment, Congressman Danny K. Davis, 7th Congressional District, Provost Michael Tanner and Ms. Gwendolyn Duffin, Assistant to the Associate Provost and Executive Director, UHP



UHP Early Outreach Students attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Statewide Student Health Professions Conference for Middle and High School Students

emphasize academic enrichment programs that prepare students for a health profession career.

Concurrent sessions will be provided on standardize testing preparation, study skills strategies, curriculum vitae and personal statement writing. The luncheon plenary session will discuss financial aid and scholarship opportunities. A special workshop will be conducted for current medical students on Resident and Licensing Workshop for M3/M4 Students and a special panel presentation especially for men of color interested in the health professions. The conference will also host a College Fair, College Tours and an opportunity to sign up to have lunch with faculty, alumni and students in the health professions.

On April 16, 2005, the UHP sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Statewide Health Professions Conference for middle and high school students. The room was packed with approximately 500 students as they listened attentively to Congressman Danny K. Davis deliver the keynote address at the opening ceremony.

The day was filled with motivational messages and personal experiences from community leaders, UHP directors and pre-health professions students. Workshops for Middle School Students included presentations on Academic Planning/Transitioning from Middle School to High School. They learned how to be successful in planning for their education, specifically the early planning and preparation that is needed to compete in a rigorous health professions curriculum. They also learned test taking strategies that help them read and analyze multiple choice questions, control test anxiety and approach tests with a winning attitude.

High School students participated in an Academic Planning and Transitioning from High School to College workshops that focused on topics that shape the freshman experience and resources to help make a significant difference in student's ability to succeed in college. Topics included how to select a college and major, as well as information on admissions, financial aid and the myriad of health careers they can choose.

Planning is in process for the Statewide Student Conference for Undergraduate, Graduate and Graduate Professions students. The conference will be on September 24, 2005 and will feature Dr. Linda Murray, Chief Medical Office—Primary Care Ambulatory & Community Health Network of Cook County, as keynote speaker on "Eliminating Health Disparities by Diversifying the Workforce." The conference will



## UHP Academic Center of Excellence (ACE) Pre-Health Student Orientation

Freshman and Transfer students attended the first UHP ACE Health Student Orientation, September 24, 2004, designed specifically for undergraduate students interested in the health professions. Students learned about the UHP Undergraduate health related programs, networked with UHP Directors and pre-health students, discussed basic survival skills needed to succeed at UIC and enjoyed a short performance by the UHP Pre-Health Student Organization on time management skills. This year, the Urban Health Program will sponsor the UHP Pre-Health Student Orientation on September 19, 2005.



## College of Pharmacy (COP) partners with CVS

Twenty five outstanding high school students from Morgan Park, Hyde Park, Lincoln Park, Westinghouse, John Hope, Julian and other Chicago Public Schools (CPS) participated in this year's CVS/Pharmacy Summer Enrichment Program. This pharmacy workforce development program, designed to expose students to careers paths in pharmacy, paired students with COP mentors and preceptorship sites designed to increase the awareness of the pharmacy profession among underrepresented minority students.



## Students Learn the Value of Cultural Competence

As part of the Urban Health Program July 8, 2005 Health Professions Seminar Series "Diversity and Cultural Competence in the Health Professions," actors from the UIC Chicago Circle Players performed a parody on the importance of understanding culture and language in the health professions. The UHP Health Professions Seminar Series will continue to focus on this important topic.

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## In Memoriam



Attorney Earl Langdon Neal, former chair of the University of Illinois at Chicago, Community Advisory Council (CAC) to the Urban Health Program (UHP) died February 13, 2005 of cancer at age 76. A prominent Chicago attorney, he championed the recruitment of minority students into the health professions. When speaking of his twenty-two years as Chair of the CAC, attorney Neal said "the highlight of my career has been the contributions I made to the UIC Urban Health Program. Our work together has made it possible for many underrepresented and disadvantaged students to enter the health professions educational programs who, otherwise, would not have had access or support to obtain professional degrees." Attorney Neal served as counsel for the UIC South Campus Project. For his outstanding contributions, UIC will honor Dr. Neal by naming the South Campus gateway the Earl Langdon Neal Plaza. The plaza, located on the southwest corner of Roosevelt Road and Halsted Street, is the main entrance to South Campus.



Dr. Maurice F. Rabb Jr., the first African-American ophthalmology resident at the University of Illinois Hospital died at the age of 72 on June 6, 2005. In 1984 he was appointed the interim associate vice- chancellor of Urban Health Program. Dr. Rabb built an international reputation as an ophthalmologist specializing in retinal diseases and a physician-leader. Together with Dr. George Honig, Dr. Rabb founded UIC's Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center in 1972 and served as its director for 16 years. It was through Dr. Rabb's research in the field that it became possible to prevent retinal detachment and blindness in sickle cell patients.

## Alumni Profile



Imelda Huerta, M.D.

Imelda Huerta, M.D. is a 2000 UHP graduate from the UIC College of Medicine (COM). Dr. Huerta grew up in the Little Village neighborhood, her parents are from San Luis Potosi in Mexico and she is the first in her family to attend college.

Dr. Huerta's experiences and exposure with the UHP have shaped her strong community commitment. She advocates on behalf of Latino Families at Christ Hope Children's Hospital by creating a clinic specifically for Spanish-speaking patients where she works as a Pediatrician supervising residents in their newborn "well-baby," adolescent, continuity and acute care clinics.

Dr. Huerta is also a Faculty Fellow at the COM Department of Medical Education, where she is assisting to develop, implement, and evaluate a cultural competence curriculum that will be integrated in the College of Medicine's core curriculum. She is also currently in the Master of Health Professions Education Program.

Dr. Huerta strongly believes in continuing her strong ties to UIC. She mentors minority high school and college students at UIC and volunteers at community Health Fairs. Recently, she was speaker at the Health Professions Seminar on "Diversity and Cultural Competence in the Health Professions" held on July 8, 2005. She engaged approximately 150 UHP High School students in a dialogue on the importance of understanding the role of culture on the health professions. Dr. Huerta was also one of the actors and performed with the UIC Chicago Circle Players as they acted a skit on the importance and proper use of interpreters in the health professions when interacting with limited English speaking patients. But for Dr. Huerta, and most importantly, she feels that by forging a career in Academic Medicine she can make more of an impact as a leader for her community.

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## UHP Calendar

### September

#### UHP Pre-Health Student Orientation

September 19, 2005, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Student Services Building—Conference Room B & C  
Contact: [denisehu@uic.edu](mailto:denisehu@uic.edu), Denise Hunter

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual UHP Statewide Student Health Professions Conference

September 24, 2005, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
UIC Student Center West  
Contact: [mtoney@uic.edu](mailto:mtoney@uic.edu), Dr. Michael Toney

#### Open House

#### UHP Resource Center

September 19, 2005, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Student Services Building--Room 2190  
Contact: [denisehu@uic.edu](mailto:denisehu@uic.edu), Denise Hunter

### October

#### UHP Health Professions Seminar

Contact: [cmillan@uic.edu](mailto:cmillan@uic.edu), Carmenza Millan  
Look for future posting

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### Join the UHP Pre-Health Professions Student Organization

Alexandria Bowman, President, [abowma4@uic.edu](mailto:abowma4@uic.edu), Alexandria Bowman  
Dr. Michael Toney, Academic Advisor [mtoney@uic.edu](mailto:mtoney@uic.edu), Dr. Michael Toney

UHP Newsletter--Comments? Suggestions? Contact: [cmillan@uic.edu](mailto:cmillan@uic.edu), Carmenza Millan

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