

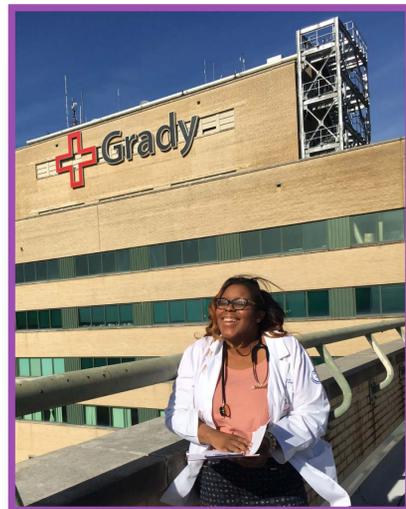
Medical Mentors Organizational Approach to Eliminating Healthcare Disparities in Low Income and Underserved Communities.

INTRODUCTION

African Americans comprise one of the smallest population groups in US medical schools. The low number of African Americans attending medical school contributes to the small number of practicing African American doctors. Research has found that African American physicians are more likely to work in underserved and poor communities. When discussing healthcare disparities, it must be stated that by increasing the number of African American's that apply and get accepted into medical school, this may, in turn, fill the healthcare deficiencies in communities of color and underserved medical communities.

The question is then posed: How does America increase the number of African Americans entering medical school?

The answer is mentorship.



METHODS

1. Plan

1. Met with site officials to discuss mentorship programs that have been successful in the past
2. **Organized an In-house and Outreach sector for medical Mentors**
3. Set up guidelines for medical student mentors

Medical student criteria were as follows: They had to be a first year MD student with a passion for young people. Each student must have come from a disadvantaged background. Each student must have a passion for children.

2. Promote

1. publications were created and sent out to the site
2. a video commercial was recorded at the medical school
3. flyers and a sign up table were displayed after church serves
4. student volunteers helped solicit flyers to the congregation

3. Mentor

1. One-on-one
2. Events
3. Mission



FINDINGS

Though the Outreach division of the organization did not directly facilitate one on one mentoring, it yielded a higher number of one on one interactions and fostered more relationships among medical students and the youth in targeted communities.

Studies show that natural forming mentorship relationships cultivate greater intrapersonal transformation in mentees. Studies also have shown that natural forming mentorship relationships produce students with a higher appreciation of education.

Medical Mentors is an organization that is goal driven and serious about fulfilling the mission of creating more black doctors through mentorship to decrease health disparities in America.



CONCLUSIONS

- Due to the research and the data collected by comparing the two sectors of the organization. It would be in the most beneficial to move forward exclusively with the Outreach division of the organization. This will allow for more outreach events consequently more interaction and exposure to black doctors for the youth that will in turn foster more mentorship relationships
- Mentorship is the key to increasing the number of African Americans entering medical careers in the USA