BACKGROUND

• Enrollment of minority students in colleges and medical schools has been inconsistent
• Inability to streamline a pipeline in medical professions education
• Cascading mentorship uses a peer-assisted mentorship to effectively make students better learners and teachers
• Clinical site:
  • Helping Hands Outreach Clinic is located in Conyers, GA.
  • Its mission is to eliminate barriers faced by low-income families and at-risk children living in the surrounding communities

PREMED PROGRAM

• Recruitment
  • Sample from students and providers who volunteer at the clinic
• Cascading Mentorship Program
  • Sessions will span over two-week periods
  • After each two-week period evaluations were done
  • The pilot study had 2 two-week sessions for data collection
  • Providers: 1 participant
  • Spearheads all workshops and sessions
    Mentors all students
  • Medical students: 2 participants
    Executes some activities. Helps to recruit
    Coaches college students
  • College students: 2 participants
    Coaches to high school students
  • High school students: 3 participants

RESULTS

• 100% Participants indicated more confidence in entering the healthcare field in the future
• 93% Participants indicated that they felt more comfortable learning in an environment where the coaches and providers looked like them.
• 93% Participants indicated positive experiences in program
• 7% Participants indicated negative experiences in program.

DISCUSSION

• Premed program encourages interest of participating students towards a career in healthcare professions
• Participants felt that the program increased their confidence, improved their abilities to teach and lead, and increased awareness about the significance of cultural diversity and being engaged in the community
• Having mentors and students close in age, decreased the intellectual distance and encouraged a more relaxed educational environment in the program
• Using diverse providers to lead workshops and sessions will counterbalance the perceived prejudice and discrimination

CONCLUSIONS

• In alignment with AAMC core value, our program encourages an inclusive environment
• Program helped to nurture an environment that increases a sense of belonging, increases education, and respect among students from different racial/ethnic backgrounds, socioeconomic statuses, religions, and ages are warranted
• Increasing the awareness of the students towards the importance of diversity and giving a sense of empowerment to the coaches
• Full implementation with bigger sample and greater of participants will have a wider impact on its target audience

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