



THE NORTHWEST NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

NEWSLETTER

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WY'EAST: A CLEAR PATHWAY TO MEDICAL SCHOOL



Wy'east is an innovative post-baccalaureate pathway designed specifically to prepare American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students to excel in medical school. In our inaugural year there were two pathways within Wy'east; the Academic Enhancement Pathway and the Career Change (CC) Pathway. The Academic Enhancement (AE) Pathway is designed specifically for students who either applied but were not accepted into medical school or those without a qualifying MCAT score.

In our first year we had 7 scholars in the AE Pathway and 3 scholars in the CC Pathway. All 7 of our scholars in the AE were recommended for acceptance to OHSU School of Medicine. Six of our scholars will be matriculating this fall and one will be pursuing a Master's in Public Health. All three of our CC scholars completed their pre-medical pre-requisites and will be taking the MCAT this summer. We could not be more proud of this first cohort!

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

"We're looking for American Indian and Alaska Native students that others say aren't good enough for medical school, and we're proving them wrong," Brodt said of Wy'east, which is the only post-baccalaureate, pre-medical pathway exclusively for Native Americans.

-Erik Brodt, MD (Ojibwe)

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR UPDATE



"I am so proud of our scholars and faculty today. We could not have dreamed of a better group of scholars to be our first cohort. The faculty have also put so much time, effort and passion into creating this pathway.

What I have witnessed this year is 10 individuals coming together to support, encourage and push each other to success. The cohort effect is real. I have no doubt they will be successful in medical school with the love and support of the NNACoE, the OHSU community, the local tribal support and ancestors."

-Allison Empey, MD (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde)

NNACoE STAFF



Dove Spector (Nez Perce), Sarah Rasmussen-Rehkopf (Quileute/Makah), Audrey Juliussen (Ahtna-Athabascan, Unungan), Allison Empey, MD (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde),

It has been a tremendous honor to support each Wy'east Scholars dream of becoming a physician. We are all so excited to see what the next year has in store for our scholars. - NNACoE Staff



Erik Brodt, MD (Ojibwe)

MEET THE WY'EAST FACULTY!

PETER MAYINGER, PHD



Dr. Peter Mayinger is a cell biologist and an associate professor in the division of nephrology and hypertension in the school of medicine. When assembling the Wy'east team Dr. Mayinger stood out as the ideal candidate to create and direct the basic science section for Wy'east because of his leadership position in the recently transformed medical curriculum and his diverse teaching roles in the School of Medicine. Dr. Mayinger was instrumental in developing the Wy'east curriculum for foundation sciences and has taught skills and knowledge that will directly support the success of the Wy'east scholars as

they get started with medical school. While reflecting on last year, Dr. Mayinger notes: "There was a tremendous buy-in by OHSU faculty, which contributed significantly to our success. The guest lectures came from many different departments and their enthusiasm and support helped a lot to create a strong program"

KATHARINE ZUCKERMAN, MD, MPH, F.A.A.P

Dr. Katharine Zuckerman is an Associate Professor in the department of Pediatrics and has been at OHSU since 2009. Dr. Zuckerman completed her medical training at Harvard Medical School where she also obtained a Master's in Public Health. Her experience as a general pediatrician, health service researcher and training positioned Dr. Zuckerman as integral to Wy'east. Her role in Wy'east was to develop the curriculum for population health and epidemiology in addition to teach the curriculum to the Scholars. While reflecting on the first year of Wy'east, Dr. Zuckerman notes, "The success of the program was due to the drive and dedication of the scholars. The scholars really surpassed our expectations."



MEET THE WY'EAST FACULTY!

SHOSHANA ZEISMAN - PEREYO, ED.D

Dr. Shoshana Zeisman-Pereyo is the Director of Student Academic Support Services at Oregon Health and Science University. She completed her Doctorate of Education at Portland State University in 2012 and has nearly 19 years of experience in supporting students at post-secondary education. She is the Academic Skills and Wellness Thread Director for Wy'east and in addition to that role she works with each student one-on-one to create study plans unique to each student's strengths and weaknesses. Dr. Zeisman-Pereyo describes

her highlight of year as, "There was a crazy cohort effect that was truly amazing to witness. When creating Wy'east this is something we hoped for but to witness it was surprising. The scholars developed these strong relationships with each other that will last going into medical school and beyond."



CYNTHIA MORRIS, PHD, MPH

Cynthia Morris, PhD MPH is an experienced researcher and research mentor who has had continuous funding from the NIH for more than 30 years. She is the Co-Investigator of the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute (CTSA) and has served as the Assistant Dean of Admissions in the School of Medicine for nearly two decades.

She has extensive experience in developing academic programs. During early discussions of creating the Wy'east post-baccalaureate program, Dr. Morris was identified as the ideal person to assemble a dynamic team and quickly implement this program. Dr. Morris comments on this last year as, "one of the most meaningful and gratifying experiences of my career. It is just amazing to think that we went from writing the grant to having graduates in such a short period. We owe a lot to Dr. Zuckerman, Dr. Mayinger and Dr. Zeisman-Pereyo who put in the hard work to get it done. Dr. Empey came in mid-year to provide a stabilizing factor to understand where the student are and being able to engage with students in a whole new level."



MEET OUR WY'EAST GRADUATES



PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

- ▶ **Jacob Smith** (Confederated Tribes of Umatilla) is interested in primary care working with under served communities.
- ▶ **Audrey Juliussen** (Ahtna-Athabaskan, Unungan) was apart of the CC pathway and will be applying to medical school.
- ▶ **Kayla Murphy** (Prairie Band Potawatomi) through the exposure of population health as part of the Wy'east curriculum she has decided to pursue a Masters of Public Health degree to become an Epidemiologist and work with Native American communities.
- ▶ **Kyna Lewis** (Tlingit) is interested in Pediatrics while still keeping her options open. She is excited to explore new opportunities and experiences while in medical school.
- ▶ **Jessica Souphanavong** (Inupiaq) is passionate about women's health and is currently interested in OB/GYN serving Native Alaskan and American Indian communities.
Matilda (Inupiaq) the first Wy'east baby and daughter of Jessica Souphanavong.
- ▶ **Jasmine Curry** (Diné) is interested in OB/GYN and Ophthalmology serving Native American communities.
- ▶ **Ashley Wirth** (Diné) is keeping her mind and heart open to finding what specialty is best suited for her while in medical school. Her overall goal is to become a physician serving Native American communities.
- ▶ **B Castra Nemici** (Cherokee Nation) was part of the CC pathway and has recently been accepted into the AE pathway. She is interested in the field of Endocrinology.
- ▶ **Candice Jiménez** (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs) was part of the CC pathway and has recently been accepted into the AE pathway. She plans on serving community through women's health and being a physician for her people.
- ▶ **Aaron Thomas** (Diné) plans to serve Native American communities and is keeping his options open to new experiences in medical school.