

MENTOR A PREMED STUDENT

Medical schools now require at least 40 hours of shadowing experience prior to applying to medical school. This is your opportunity to help an Idaho student fulfill their dreams and inspire a student to choose Family Medicine. Spending five days with a premed student will reveal the positive impact family physicians have on their communities and the lives of patients. The program is implemented during the summer months, June, July and August while students are on summer break. We receive applications from all over Idaho and need your help in fulfilling this obligation for students in your community. Contact me at Idahoafp@aol.com.

The program is designed to match mentors with premed college students from the University of Idaho, Boise State University, Albertson College, BYU Idaho, Lewis Clark, NW Nazarene or Idaho State University. Students will be matched with physician mentors from their hometowns and will spend 40 hours shadowing and observing the day to day activities of a family physician. Both St. Luke's and Saint Alphonsus have sanctioned the program so if you are an employee of either of the hospitals, you are approved to participate.

Students would NOT be allowed to examine or touch patients but only observe. Restricting students to "observation only" releases you from all liability.

I receive requests for shadowing experiences from students throughout the year so even if the student does not participate in the Premed Shadowing Program from a university in Idaho, we have a need to mentors during the year.

I invite you to participate in the premed shadowing program. The success of the program is because of positive preceptors like you. The student matched with you will be contacting you or feel free to contact your student to coordinate the experience. A list of goals and guidelines are listed below. **Please do not pass up this opportunity to positively influence a student's perspective about the specialty you love.**

Mission:

- Increase the number of students choosing primary care/family medicine by providing them with a positive outreach experience.
- Show students the advantage of continuity of care in the primary care setting.
- Allow students to experience a diverse practice setting (include experiences in the hospital, nursing home, clinic, call nights, etc.).
- Furnish students with an understanding of community interactions from a leadership perspective (provide outside encounters, i.e. area organizations, community activities, school involvement etc).
- Evaluate the experience to determine the program's merit.

Goals:

- Provide students the ability to fulfill the shadowing requirements needed to apply to medical school.
- Provide students with an early exposure to the challenges and rewards of practicing primary care medicine in a rural or urban underserved setting.
- Promote in students a positive attitude toward rural and urban underserved community medicine.
- Provide students with an opportunity to learn how community healthcare systems function.

Contact me today at Idahoafp@aol.com.

Thanks for your support and involvement in a very important program.

Neva Santos, CAE,