



Research Week 2023

Effects of the Latinx Medical Student Association (LMSA) mentorship program in Pasco, Washington

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Keywords

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Abstract

Introduction: In 2021, the Latinx Medical Student Association at Washington State University Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine initiated a Mentorship Program for students at Pasco High School (Pasco, WA). The program serves students interested in healthcare careers (HCC) and provided exposure to HCC through two virtual and three in-person sessions with hands-on activities, guest speakers, health-equity topics, and career advising. Pasco High School has a large Spanish-speaking population and over 80% of its students are on free-reduced lunch.

Methods: Four post-program evaluation surveys completed during the pilot 2021-2022 school year informed curriculum development. During the 2022-2023 school year, IRB exemption was obtained and an optional, anonymous pre-program evaluation was completed by participants. Surveys were on a 5-point Likert scale, available in both English and Spanish, and were completed and analyzed on Qualtrics. An optional, anonymous post-program evaluation will be administered after the last event in late May 2023.

Results: Post-program evaluation surveys indicated mentorship interest in hands-on activities, panels with healthcare professionals, and college/career preparation. In the pre-program survey, 81.0% of students who participated in the survey identified as Latino and 52.4% indicated they are on free-reduced lunch (n=21). 65.2% (n=23) of students strongly agreed that they are interested in a career in healthcare, and 63.6% of students strongly agreed that getting an education beyond high school is important for them. However, only 26.1% of students strongly agreed that they are knowledgeable about what it takes to become a healthcare professional, 27.3% of students were confident in their ability to get

accepted into college, and 36.4% of students understood most things about financial aid. 43.5% of students strongly agreed that they understood the difference between HCC.

Discussion: Participant survey data suggested that the majority of students would benefit from topic-specific mentorship support in college readiness, financial aid, pathways to HCC, and differences between HCC.

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