



2025 - 2026

INLAND EMPIRE AHEC'S SCHOLARS & FUTURE DOCS PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

ANNUAL WRAP-UP REPORT



CHAISR INTRODUCTION (IE AHEC'S HOST SITE)



WHAT IS CHAISR?

The Community Health Association Inland Southern Region (CHAISR) is a champion for community-based health centers and clinics located throughout Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. We provide services to support our diverse membership, enabling access to quality health care and services for safety-net communities. CHAISR was founded in 2009, incorporated in 2010, and designated a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2011. The nonprofit association supports community health centers and clinics serving the safety net within the Inland Southern Region. The Association also provides advocacy, public policy promotion, education, resources, trainings, and networking opportunities for 21 organizations in the membership representing 115 community-based health centers and clinics throughout Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. In 2016, it became the host site for the Inland Empire AHEC. In 2022, member health centers and clinics reported 1,313,656 annual patient visits, serving 415,534 unduplicated patients across the Inland Southern Region.

OUR MISSION

To improve the quality of health care for underserved communities within the Inland Empire through educational opportunities, trainings, pathway programs, and collaboration with academic and community partnerships that share the same vision.

OUR VISION

We envision healthcare access for all and efficient use of health services and resources in the Inland Southern Region.



JODIE WINGO
PRESIDENT & CEO



ATHENA MONTIEL
**DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT & IE AHEC**



JACQUELINE PEREZ
**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE &
HUMAN RESOURCES**



SAUL CASTREJON
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



STACEY ZECENA HUYNH
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Scholars program is an HRSA-funded program managed by the Community Health Association Inland Southern Region (CHAISR). For this reason, the Association is also the Inland Empire AHEC that meets the needs of workforce development and education in both San Bernardino and Riverside counties by hosting educational opportunities (e.g., trainings and internships) and contributes to the development of the health professions workforce by leading the AHEC Scholars Program. In the Fall of 2018, the IE AHEC recruited its inaugural class of AHEC Scholars in Community Health.

The IE AHEC is committed to improving access to quality health care for underserved populations through academic and community partnerships. In addition, the IE AHEC establishes partnerships to increase diversity in the health professions workforce, increases community-based health professions training programs, contributes to pipeline programs to promote healthcare careers for the youth within the underserved, vulnerable communities, and supports effective communication amongst healthcare centers/clinics, academic institutions, and community partners.

IE AHEC'S PROGRAM GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Inland Empire AHEC shares the same mission, goals, and objectives as the California AHEC Program.

Mission

Our mission is to improve the quality of health care for underserved communities within the Inland Empire through educational opportunities, trainings, pathway programs, and collaboration with academic and community partnerships that share the same vision.

Program Goals

- Increase community-based health professions training programs
- Increase the diversity of California's health workforce
- Strengthen collaboration and develop partnerships between institutions with similar missions
- Support communication between the community and partners
- Record, study, and document outcomes

Program Objectives

- Continuing education programs for health professionals practicing in community health centers/clinics and other underserved areas within the community
- Teaching health professionals, students, and residents to present health information to community members and clinic patients
- Community-based clinical training for health professions students and residents in the community
- Programs to expose community high school students to college and career opportunities in health professions



SCHOLARS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



ABOUT THE AHEC SCHOLARS PROGRAM



The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Scholars Program is a two-year, longitudinal, interdisciplinary curriculum divided into three components: community-oriented education, clinical training/field experience, and community-based hands-on activities that supplement students' existing health programs. The goal of the AHEC Scholars Program is to provide health profession students with a comprehensive experience of working in community health to ultimately encourage them to pursue careers serving rural and/or underserved communities. The program will equip students with the knowledge and the skills for them to be successful in the primary care health system and to deliver high-quality care to patients, especially in rural and underserved areas. The program year runs from July to June. This wrap-up will cover data from the last program year 2025-2026, based on surveys completed by students and data gathered by the state AHEC office.

Scholar Partnerships



AZUSA PACIFIC
UNIVERSITY



California University
of Science and Medicine
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Chaffey
College



COLLEGE
of the **DESERT**



El Sol
NEIGHBORHOOD EDUCATIONAL CENTER



Loma Linda University



REACH OUT
Strengthening Communities



UC RIVERSIDE | School of Medicine



Western University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Dental Medicine

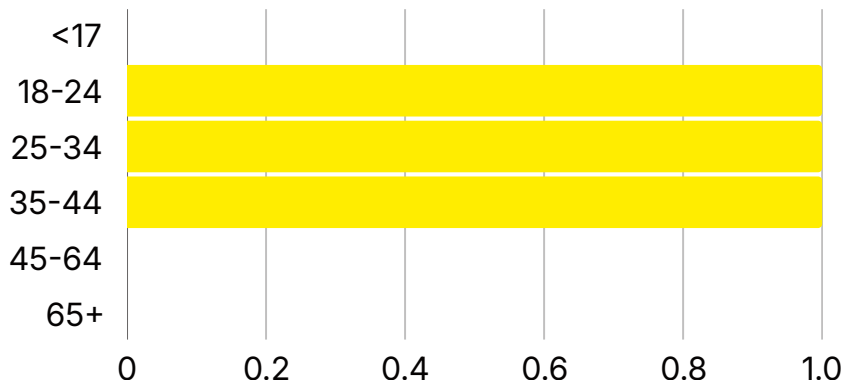
During the 2025–2026 program year, the Inland Empire AHEC continued to strengthen partnerships with eight local educational institutions and community organizations, including Azusa Pacific University, CSU San Bernardino, California University of Science and Medicine, El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center, Loma Linda University, Reach Out, UCR School of Medicine, and Western University. We also expanded our outreach by recruiting students from California Baptist University's Public Health program and Scripps College while continuing to build our relationship with Loma Linda University through presentations and engagement with students and faculty. We look forward to further strengthening these partnerships as our partners share our vision of encouraging students to remain in the Inland Empire and contribute to addressing the region's ongoing need for healthcare professionals.



One Year Pathway Scholars

Diversity of One-Year Scholars

Age Range

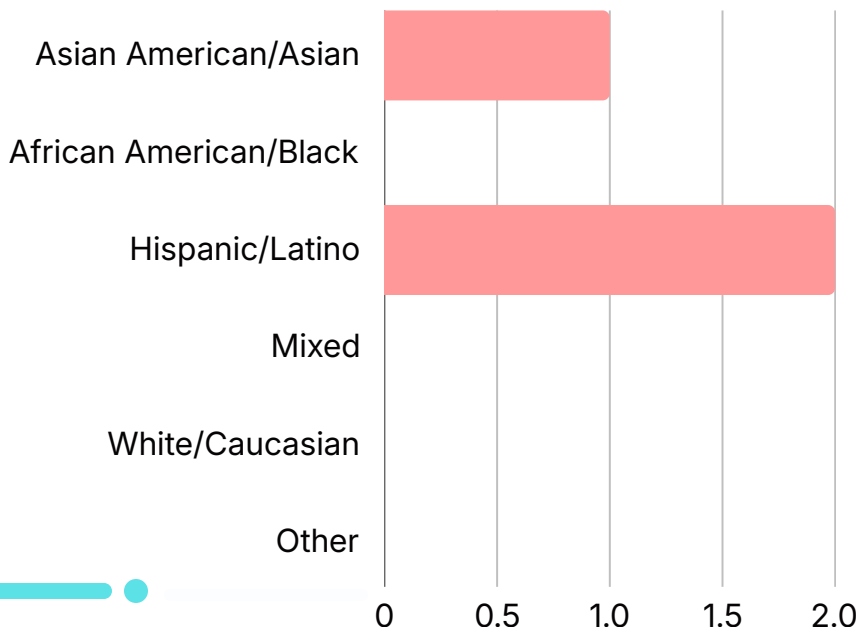


Gender

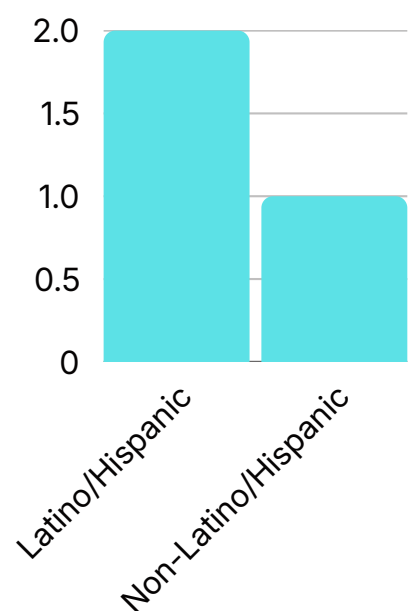


Female
100%

Race/Ethnicity



Latino/Hispanic Status



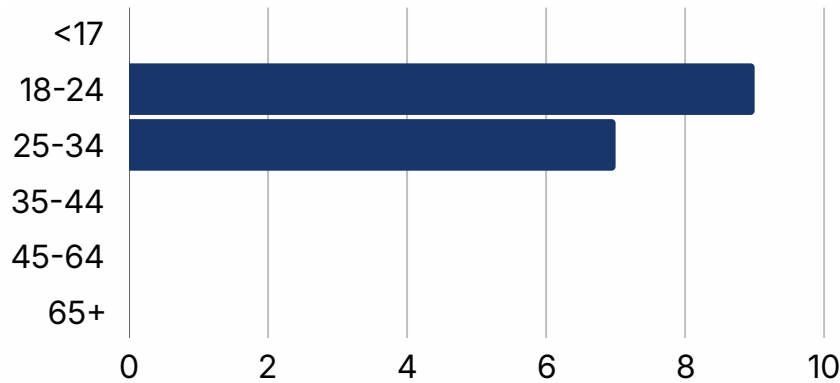


1st **Year Scholars**

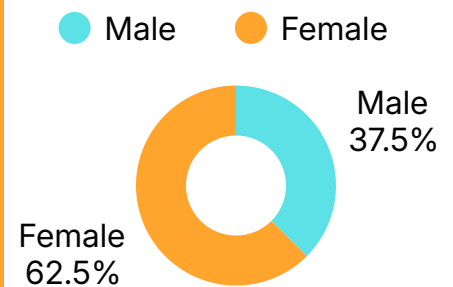
Two-Year Pathway

Diversity of 1st Year Scholars

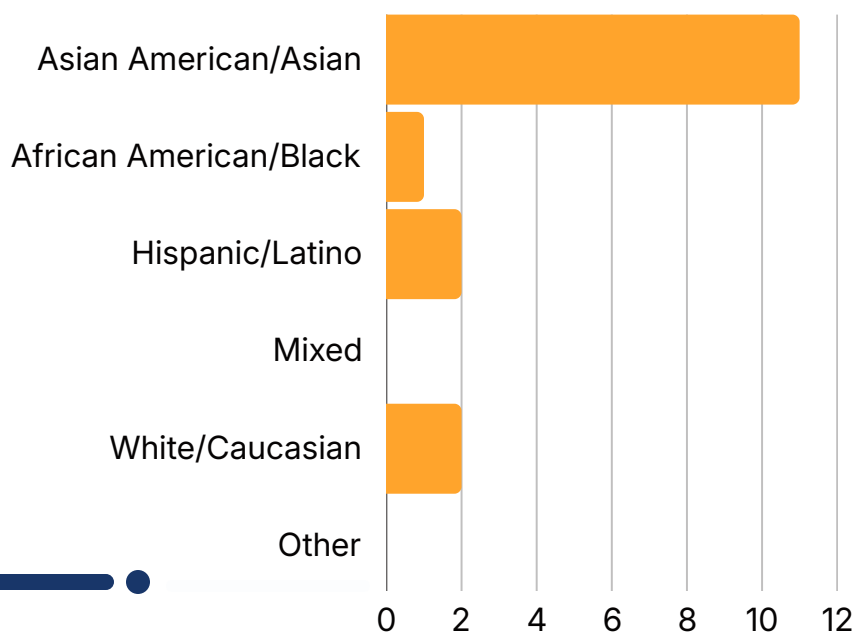
Age Range



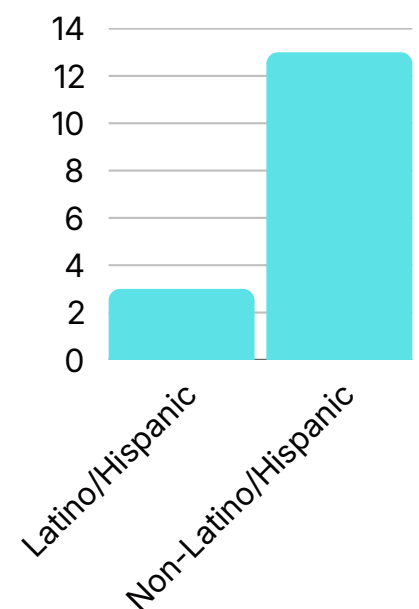
Gender



Race/Ethnicity



Latino/Hispanic Status



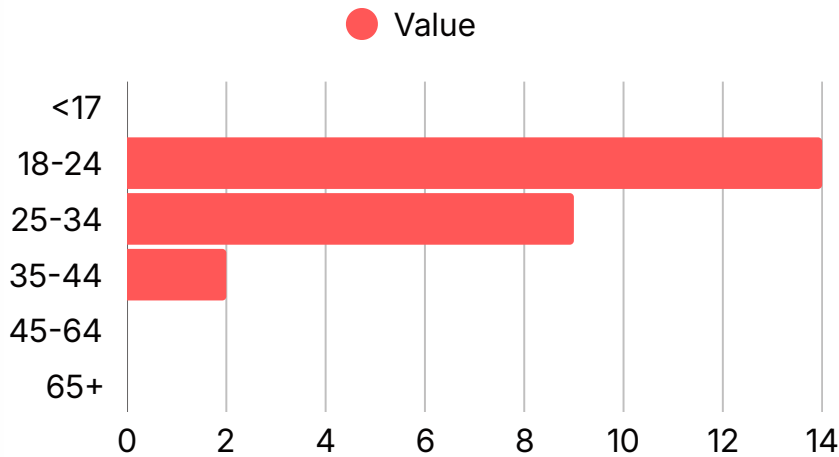


2nd **Year Scholars**

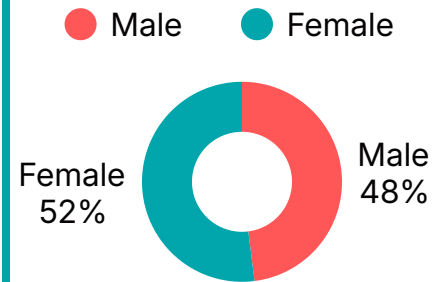
Two-Year **Pathway**

Diversity of 2nd Year Scholars

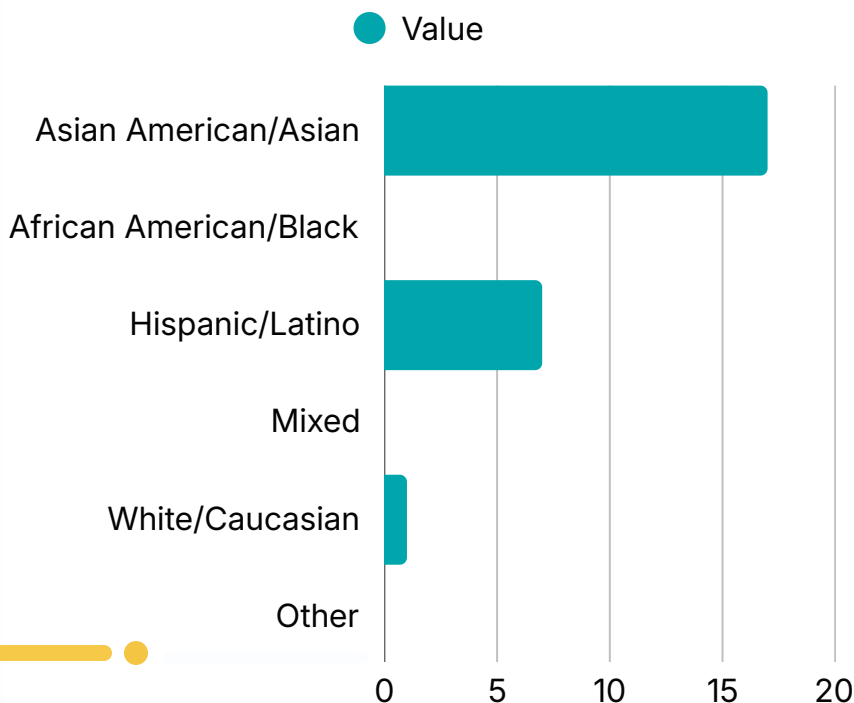
Age Range



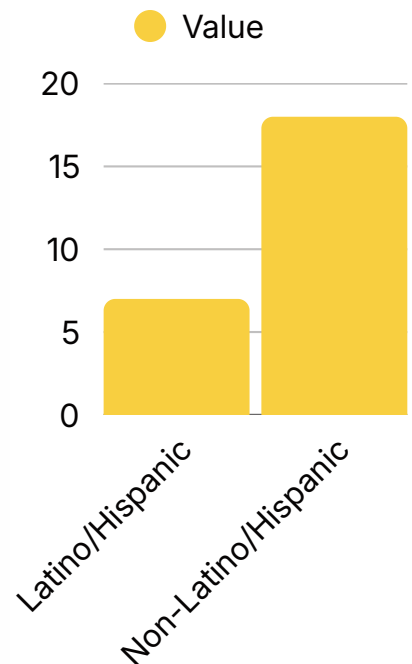
Gender



Race/Ethnicity



Latino/Hispanic Status





HEALTH PROFESSIONS OF 1ST YEAR STUDENTS

Dental 0

Medical 9

Nursing 0

Public Health 5

Social Work 0

HEALTH PROFESSIONS OF 2ND YEAR STUDENTS

0 **Dental**

22 **Medical**

1 **Nursing**

0 **Public Health**

2 **Social Work**

During the 2025–2026 program year, the Inland Empire AHEC had 44 scholars successfully complete the program. Our partnerships with UCR School of Medicine and California University of Science and Medicine were instrumental in recruiting the largest number of students. Of the 54 students enrolled, 10 withdrew during the program year, including six who were removed by the center. These withdrawals were primarily due to circumstances outside of the students' or program's control, and additional details are provided on Page 17. Compared to the previous program year, withdrawals decreased as a result of more selective recruitment. IE AHEC remains committed to providing students with the tools, resources, and guidance they need to succeed in the Scholars Program and pursue careers in healthcare.



COMPLETION RATE OF TWO-YEAR PATHWAY SCHOLARS

COMPLETION RATE OF 1ST YEAR SCHOLARS

Completed	16
Withdrawn/Removed	5

COMPLETION RATE OF 2ND YEAR SCHOLARS

Completed	25
Withdrawn/Removed	6

COMPLETION RATE OF ALL SCHOLARS (CALIFORNIA VS. INLAND EMPIRE)

	# of all completed scholars in CA (excluding the IE)	# of completed scholars from the IE AHEC	% of CA total belonging to the IE AHEC
1st Years	61	16	~26%
2nd Years	51	25	~49%

STUDENT SATISFACTION & CONFIDENCE

1 = Not at all confident to 5 = Completely Confident
How confident were/are you in your ability to...

1. DESCRIBE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER PROFESSIONALS (HEALTH CARE & OTHERS) ON THE HEALTH TEAM?
2. DEMONSTRATE HOW THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF INTER-PROFESSIONAL TEAM MEMBERS COMPLEMENT AND OVERLAP?
3. DESCRIBE HOW SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AFFECT THE HEALTH OF A COMMUNITY OR A POPULATION (E.G. EQUITY, INCOME, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, ETC.)?
4. USE COMMON PUBLIC HEALTH METHODS THAT PREVENT OR ADDRESS HEALTH ISSUES IN VULNERABLE POPULATIONS?
5. REFLECT ON AND DESCRIBE YOUR PERCEPTIONS/BIASES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FROM DIFFERENT PROFESSIONAL OR CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS?
6. RESPOND APPROPRIATELY TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS BASED ON A SENSITIVITY TO, AND RESPECT OR, THEIR CULTURAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS OR SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS?
7. DESCRIBE HOW A PATIENTS BEHAVIORAL/MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS MAY AFFECT THEIR CARE?
8. DESCRIBE THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PRIMARY CARE?
9. ADVOCATE FOR THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF A COMMUNITY BASED ON CURRENT POLICY TRENDS (SYSTEM, LOCAL, STATE, OR NATIONAL LEVEL)?
10. DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP SKILLS (E.G., EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE, INSPIRE OTHERS, RESOLVE CONFLICT, ACCEPT FEEDBACK, ETC.)?
11. WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH PATIENTS, COMMUNITIES, OR OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS?
12. UTILIZE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS GAINED FORM THE AHEC SCHOLARS PROGRAM TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE IN A RURAL, MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED, OR VULNERABLE POPULATION?

Average Answer BEFORE **Average Answer AFTER**

2

4

2

4

2

4

2

4

2

4

2

4

2

4

2

4

2

4

2

4

2

4

2

5

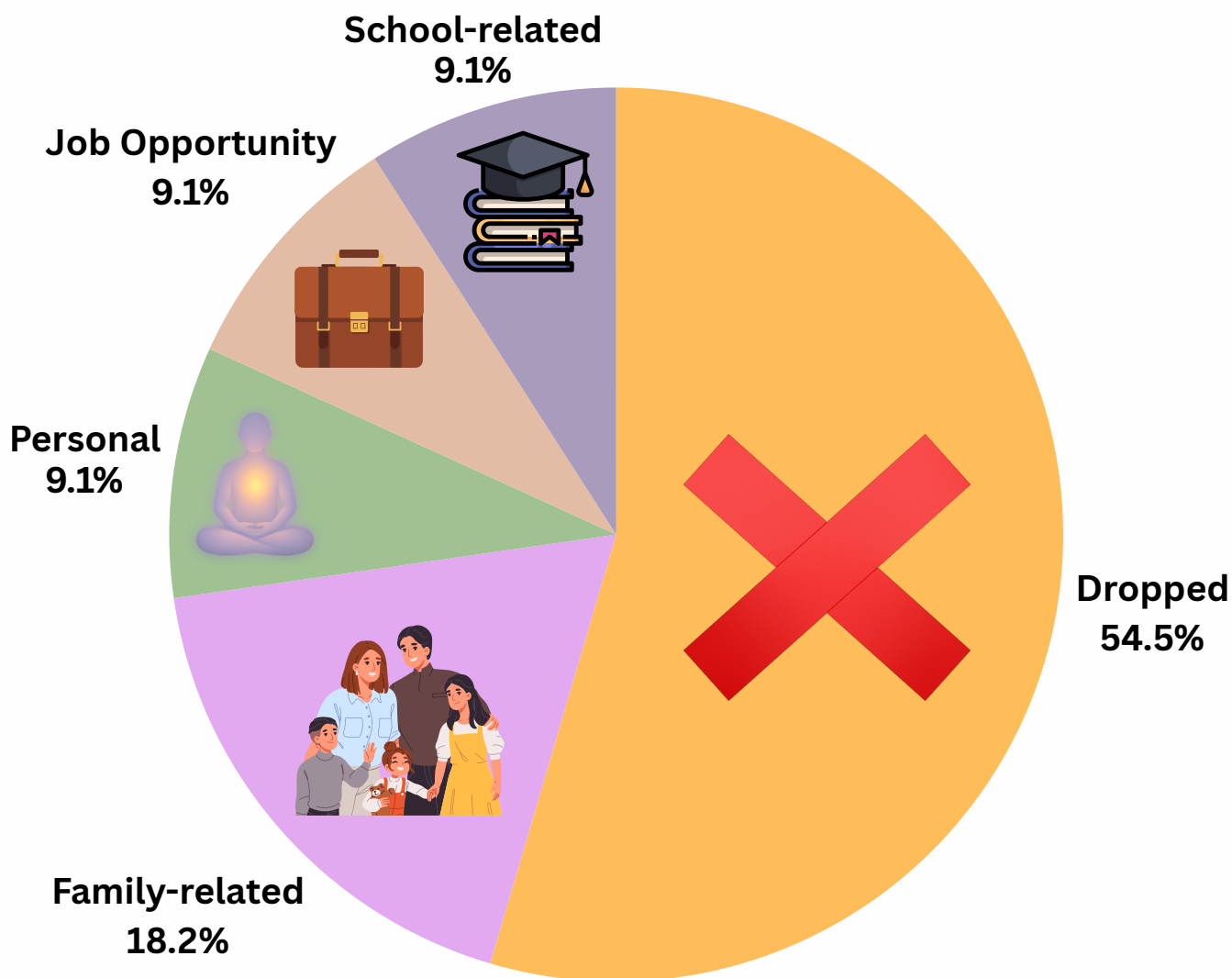
After scholars complete the program, they are required to fill out a post-survey tracked by the California AHEC office that measures their satisfaction with the Scholars Program and confidence in their abilities. Above is a chart that summarizes the findings from the collected surveys of only our AHEC.

STUDENT SATISFACTION & CONFIDENCE

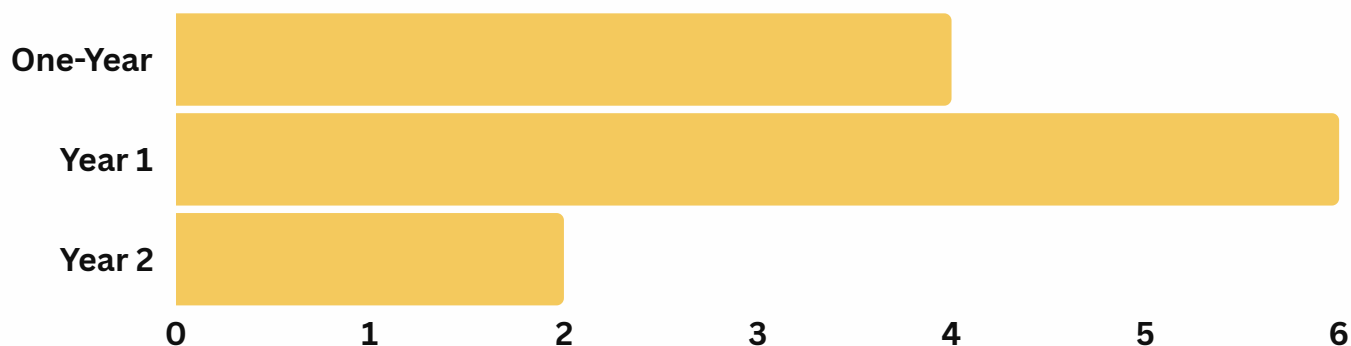
Students responded to this next question freely:
"How did the AHEC Scholars Program influence
your clinical practice?"

- "It was a great program to reflect on and build upon my past and current medical experiences."
- "I am more willing and wanting to incorporate public health aspects into my clinical practice. Learning about the SDOH can give me a more nuanced view of community and individual health needs."
- "It made me more aware of the interconnections between different sectors of health. It also taught me many things that I did not know before."
- "The scholars program helped me better understand the needs that exist in the community, and it also taught me more about how communication works between the community and the system. I am very grateful for everything I learned through this experience. Thank you very much for all your support and guidance!"
- "I believe AHEC provided me with tools to enhance my perception of patient presentations in my clinical practice. As a medical student, I focus so much on the clinical picture and diagnostics, but AHEC allowed me to broaden my vision to see beyond that and look at the social struggles each patient can have, especially in underserved communities. I feel this helped me be more successful in clinic."

A CLOSER LOOK AT STUDENT REMOVAL



STUDENT REMOVAL BY PATHWAY



Scholar Testimonials



"In my time as a medical student, I have used this program to inform my knowledge and ability to converse with patients of diverse backgrounds, understand their situations, SDOH, etc that complicate life and make healthcare more challenging."

- Andres Guadron, CUSM Medical Student



"Being part of the AHEC Scholars Program has strengthened my commitment to giving back to my community and serving diverse patient populations with compassion and cultural awareness."

- Luz Medina, College of the Desert RN student



"The knowledge gained from the scholars program influenced my understanding of the difficulties faced by the medically underserved and how providers must collaborate within systems to advocate for their health care needs."

- Christina Gonzales, CSUSB MSW student

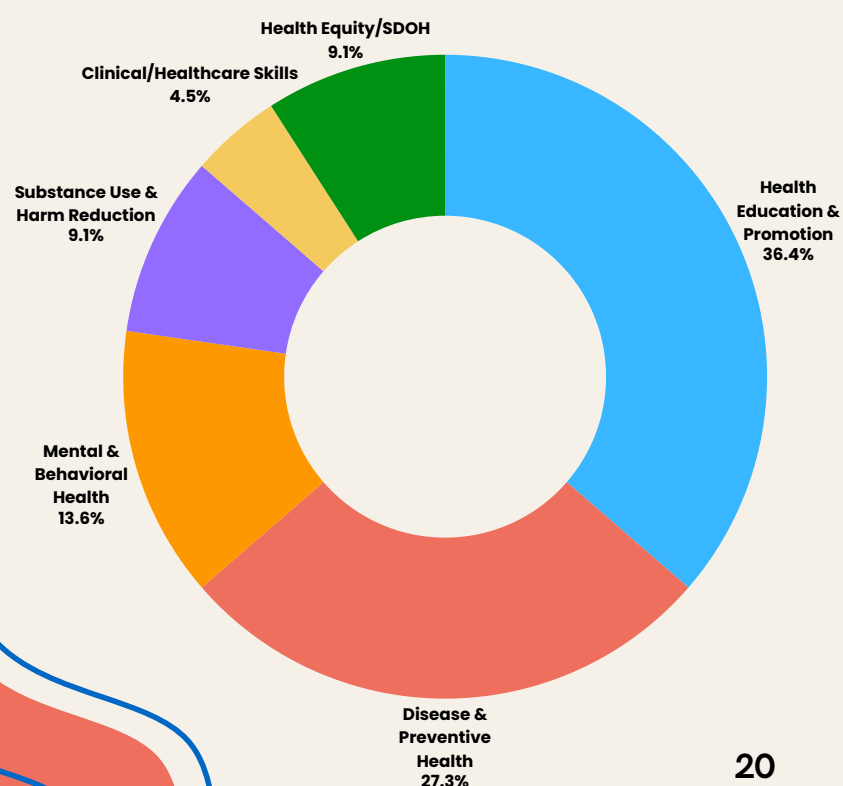


Scholar Project Highlights



This program year featured a diverse range of student-led projects, reflecting the interests and experiences of our scholars. Project topics included health education and promotion, mental and behavioral health, substance use and harm reduction, clinical and healthcare skills, and health equity and social determinants of health (SDOH). Health education and prevention emerged as the leading theme, with many scholars focusing on providing community members with practical knowledge, tools, and resources to prevent disease, make informed health decisions, and improve overall health outcomes.

Among the many impactful projects completed this year, we chose to highlight three projects. First, Mahnur Bharucha's project focused on educating Riverside Free Clinic patients about sun protection and skin cancer prevention, increasing awareness of preventive practices among an underserved population. Secondly, William Wang's project addressed mental health among the unhoused community through outreach brochures at the Riverside Free Clinic. Finally, Van Le and Shrey Saretha partnered with Pathway to Medicine to conduct suturing workshops for high school, undergraduate, and medical students at the California University of Science and Medicine, providing early exposure to fundamental healthcare skills and encouraging interest in healthcare careers. We are so proud of the projects that our students worked so hard on!



DIVERSITY OF SCHOLARS' COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECT TOPICS

SAJA ZIDAN & PAMELA MUNOZ

Saja Zidan and Pamela Muñoz, second-year medical students at the UCR School of Medicine, represented the California Medical Association (CMA) Medical Student Section as delegates at the 154th CMA House of Delegates meeting in Los Angeles, California. They joined more than 800 physicians and medical students from across the state to participate in discussions and help shape healthcare policies addressing important issues affecting the medical profession and the communities they serve. Their participation highlights the importance of student leadership and engagement in healthcare policy and advocacy.

Check out [UCR SOM's LinkedIn Post on Saja and Pamela here!](#)



LIDIA ALBARRAN

Lidia Albarran, a California State University, San Bernardino graduate, was recognized as the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences' Outstanding Undergraduate Student for her academic achievement and dedication to serving others. While earning her bachelor's degree in social work, Lidia demonstrated her commitment to the community by helping students and families connect with essential resources. During her case manager internship, she also participated in a community project focused on understanding the needs and experiences of individuals experiencing homelessness in San Bernardino.

Check out [**CSUSB's article on Lidia here!**](#)



Congratulations to the Completed Scholars!

2

= Year 2 Scholars

1

= One-year Scholars



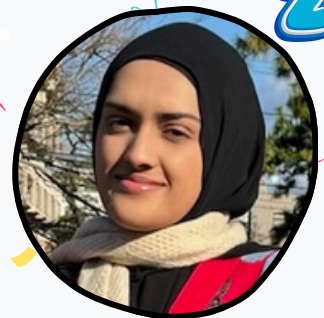
**RAQUEL ALICIA
AGUILAR**



LIDIA ALBARRAN



GENEVIEVE ARRIETA



MAHNUR BHARUCHA



ASHLEN BULLOCK



TIFFANY CHEN



VINCENT CHIANG



JENNA FARFAN



ANDRES GUADRON



**CHRISTINA
GONZALEZ**



JONATHAN HSU



ASHLEY LAI

Congratulations to the Completed Scholars!

2

= Year 2 Scholars

1

= One-year Scholars

2



VAN LE

2



LUZ MEDINA

2



KIMBERLY NAJERA

2



BRIAN NGUYEN

2



TRI BRIAN NGUYEN

2



ALYSSA PHO

2



BRENTON PHUNG

2



KEVIN QUACH

2



VARUN REDDY

2



NAJIA SALEEM

2



SHREY SARETHA

2



DANIEL VASQUEZ

Congratulations to the Completed Scholars!

2

= Year 2 Scholars

1

= One-year Scholars



BRADLEY VENTAYEN



WILLIAM WANG



**STACEY ZECENA
HUYNH**

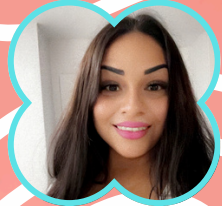


SAJA ZIDAN

BRAVO!



GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST SCHOLARS!



RAQUEL AGUILAR

- **Fun fact:** I homeschool my children, and we turn every field trip into a full learning adventure: from museums to beaches to science centers!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined because I want to challenge myself academically while building a strong community of students who are pursuing higher education with purpose.



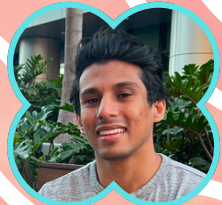
GENEVIEVE ARRIETA

- **Fun fact:** I love burritos!
- **Why I Joined:** I decided to join the AHEC Scholars Program because I saw it as a valuable opportunity to build meaningful connections and deepen my understanding of the community I serve.



LORRAINE ASUBONTENG

- **Fun fact:** I love traveling to visit different Major League Baseball stadiums! My goal is to see a game at every ballpark in the country.
- **Why I Joined:** I joined the program to gain community-based training that will strengthen my ability to address social determinants of health and provide compassionate, culturally responsive care as a future Family Medicine physician serving underserved communities.



NIALL BAIG

- **Fun fact:** I'm a huge fan of the New Jack Swing genre! There's just something about the energy and sound from that era that music today can't quite touch.
- **Why I Joined:** One of my inspirations to pursue a medical career in the first place was to provide the highest quality of medical care to underserved populations who have a right to care just as much as anyone else, regardless of their socioeconomic status or other identifying factors.



EMILY CHAN

- **Fun fact:** I have been skydiving, bungee jumping, rappelling, and cliff diving!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined as I am passionate about creating opportunities for mentorship and growing alongside my community.



KENDRICK CRUZ

- **Fun fact:** I've played saxophone since the 4th grade, both Baritone and Alto!
- **Why I Joined:** I've visited other countries and seen healthcare inequity firsthand, but as I grew up, I realized that many of these inequities exist close to my own home, and I want to be able to help the communities both local and worldwide.



JENNA FARFAN

- **Fun fact:** I have recorded for 2 big band jazz albums as a trombonist!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined to deepen my understanding of the SDOH and how they impact patient care. This opportunity will help me become a compassionate PCP who treats the whole patient, addressing both their medical needs and broader factors affecting their health.



JACEY FERNEYHOUGH

- **Fun fact:** I am a huge Denver Broncos fan!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined the AHEC Scholars Program because I want to make a difference in communities across the globe, and it provides all the resources I need to do so!



JULIETTA GARI

- **Fun fact:** I have a dog named Pluto who's half Chihuahua and half Maltipoo!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined the Scholars program to grow as a future healthcare provider and gain hands-on experience improving access to care in underserved communities.



DAISY HA-VO

- **Fun fact:** I'm a huge coffee lover and recently began making different lattes with my espresso machine. So far, I've made Biscoff, lavender matcha, and brown sugar shaken espresso!
- **Why I Joined:** Through the Scholars program, I aim to further explore health inequities in the Inland Empire, discover resources to empower patients to take charge of their health, and collaborate with peers to address SDOH.



GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST SCHOLARS!



CATHERINE KIM

- **Fun fact:** I used to be a competitive fencer growing up!
- **Why I Joined:** I decided to join the AHEC Scholars program as I believe everyone deserves equitable access to quality care, especially with an understanding of how local disparities can shape what healthcare looks like for each individual.



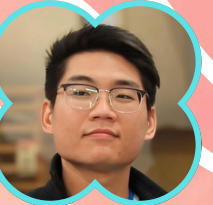
SABRINA KUNG

- **Fun fact:** I have a dog named Peaches that lives in Taipei!
- **Why I Joined:** I decided to join the scholars program because I want to deepen my understanding and widen my knowledge of healthcare and how that impacts different communities.



KENNETH LIN

- **Fun fact:** I have a terrible, almost nonexistent sense of smell, but I love cooking!
- **Why I Joined:** I decided to join the program because of its strong commitment to addressing healthcare disparities in underserved and marginalized communities!



RYAN LIN

- **Fun fact:** I used to be nationally rated in table tennis!
- **Why I Joined:** I decided to join the program to strengthen my understanding of culturally competent care in underserved communities through evidence-based learning and applied community health projects.



JOCELYN MA

- **Fun fact:** I love writing! I write music, share pieces on Substance, and journal!
- **Why I Joined:** I decided to join the IE AHEC because, since moving to the IE for medical school, I've grown to love the community and want to do my part in increasing access to quality healthcare in the area.



LIZBETH MARTINEZ FERNANDEZ

- **Fun fact:** I love traveling! My best friend Evelyn and I visit a new state every year that is within the USA. Last year, we went to Portland, Oregon. It was so beautiful and had so many breathtaking sceneries!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined because, apart from getting a certificate of completion, I will gain knowledge and be able to implicate my knowledge into communities and be able to help communities that are rural and may not have many services or information.



CASEY NGO

- **Fun fact:** I take my cat Brutus out for walks!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined the program to deepen my understanding of community-based and culturally responsive care and to strengthen my ability to advocate for those practices in underserved communities.



MANALI SATOOR

- **Fun fact:** I am a 2nd-degree black belt in Taekwondo!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined because I believe health equity is an integral part of practicing medicine, and I want to help expand access to quality care for underserved communities through education and collaboration.



DANIEL ZECENA OSORIO

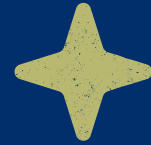
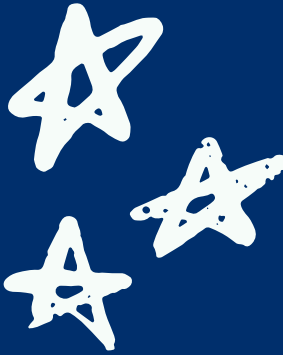
- **Fun fact:** I can dislocate my shoulders without any health issues (hypermobility syndrome)!
- **Why I Joined:** I wanted to have an opportunity to help my underserved community, as it aligns with my goals in life while at the same time honoring the mission that my school [LLU SOM] stands for.



STACEY ZECENA HUYNH

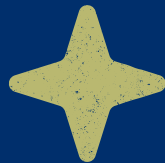
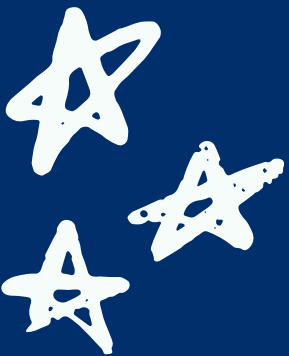
- **Fun fact:** I have two furbabies named Professor Chaos (tabby) and General Disarray (grey)!
- **Why I Joined:** I applied because I'm eager to learn, grow, and gain new experiences that I can apply to better serve the IE by becoming a compassionate and competent healthcare professional.





FUTURE DOCS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



ABOUT THE FUTURE DOCS PROGRAM



The Future Docs Program is an online medical school preparatory program funded by the Boston Scientific Foundation and in partnership with National AHEC Organization, designed to support students who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine. This year was our first year hosting this program. We were one of nine centers selected (California, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas). We are the only center to host this program in California. With the objective of helping students become medical school application-ready within two years, the program provides students with the tools, resources, guidance, and experiences needed to take the next step toward becoming future physicians. For only \$149, students in the 2025-2026 program year had access to the Princeton Review's MCAT Test Prep Course and books, mentorship from a current medical student, campus tours and admissions webinars with local medical schools throughout the Inland Empire, a personal statement workshop, mock interviews, and full coverage for their first MCAT exam fee. By bringing these resources together in one program, Future Docs helps make the path to medical school more accessible while giving aspiring physicians the preparation and support they need to take the next step toward their future careers.



Future Docs Partnerships



California University of Science and Medicine



Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine



Loma Linda University School of Medicine



University of California, Riverside School of Medicine



Western University of Health Sciences

FUTURE DOCS DEMOGRAPHICS

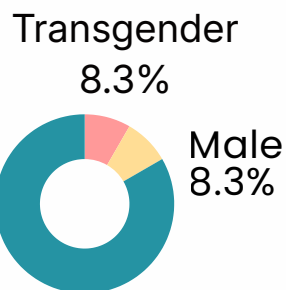


FUTURE DOCS STUDENTS



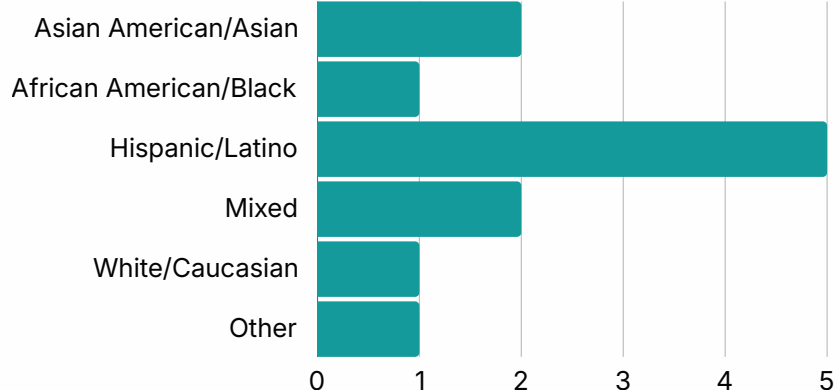
Total Students: 12

Gender



Female
83.3%

Race/Ethnicity

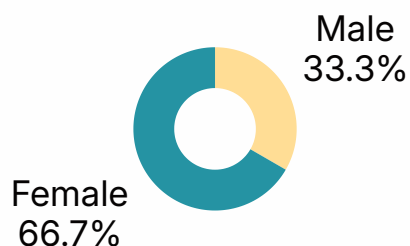


FUTURE DOCS MENTORS

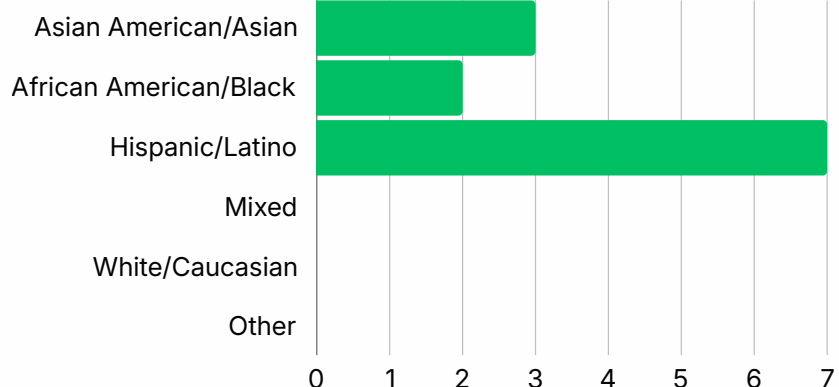


Total Mentors: 12

Gender



Race/Ethnicity





CAMPUS TOURS

AND MORE!



Throughout the program year, IE AHEC organized campus tours and admissions webinars with local medical schools, including California University of Science and Medicine, Loma Linda University, Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine, Western University of Health Sciences, and UCR School of Medicine. These opportunities allowed students to explore their options, envision their futures, and learn more about each school's mission, vision, and admissions process.

Students participating in campus tours also received a \$100 transportation stipend to help make these experiences more accessible.



CUSM (11.06.25)



Kaiser Permanente SOM (03.27.26)



LLU SOM (03.15.26)



WesternU (03.31.26)



UCR SOM (04.11.26)



Kavya Pillai



Kavya Pillai was part of our Future Docs 2025–2026 cohort. She worked as a health educator for Central City Community Health Center. Throughout her educational career, she remained a top student. During her time in our program, she was involved with MCAT prep, mentorship, and attending admissions webinars. We are so thrilled that she had been accepted to Midwestern University's Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (AZCOM) She plans to come back and practice in California.





CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE COMPLETED FUTURE DOCS STUDENTS!



Enrique Garcia



Nicole Garcia



Adriana Ibarra



Lynnea Le



Alyssa Maerean



Jessica Monroy



Rylie Nash



Vivian Onwudiwe



Kavya Pillai



Maria Rodriguez



Abtin Shafie



Vivian Varela





GET TO KNOW OUR COMPLETED FUTURE DOCS STUDENTS!



= SCHOLAR ALUMNI



= CURRENT SCHOLAR



ENRIQUE GARCIA

- **Fun fact:** I have competed in local Super Smash Bros. tournaments in the IE and have actually been ranked #22 in SoCal back in 2023!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined to grow personally and academically, make friends with people on the same path as me, and better prepare myself for the challenges of the MCAT and medical school.



NICOLE GARCIA

- **Fun fact:** I graduated from UC Davis, and I volunteered with the American Red Cross Club throughout my time there!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined due to various helpful resources to strengthen my experiences and MCAT preparation, along with receiving guidance throughout my application journey.



ADRIANA IBARRA

- **Fun fact:** I love sports so much that I'll happily spend my weekend playing softball, soccer, and running, and I still have energy left to watch a game!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined this program to gain MCAT preparation, application guidance, and mentorship that will help me confidently apply to medical school and ultimately serve the IE community as a future physician.



LYNNEA LE

- **Fun fact:** I do Wordle every day!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined the Future Docs program because I want to be well-equipped with the information needed to become a physician to serve the IE community on a daily basis.



ALYSSA MAEREAN

- **Fun fact:** One fun fact about me is that I love to work on creative projects in my spare time, especially crocheting!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined the Future Docs program to learn more about the medical school admissions process, and I am excited to gain mentorship and guidance that will help me grow and pursue my passions.



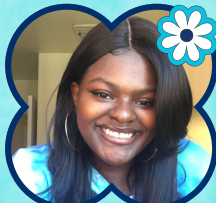
JESSICA MONROY

- **Fun fact:** I recently discovered a passion for baking!
- **Why I Joined:** My decision to join the program was based on the amount of support that the program has to offer.



RYLIE NASH

- **Fun fact:** I've seen over 50 artists!
- **Why I Joined:** My passion to cultivate a safe haven for stigmatized health and disadvantaged persons.



VIVIAN ONWUDIWE

- **Fun fact:** I'm the youngest child and the only daughter in my family!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined because I believe this program will give me the much needed support as a first-gen pre-med student navigating the medical school application process.



KAVYA PILLAI

- **Fun fact:** I love experimenting with new recipes!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined the AHEC Future Docs Program to gain mentorship and the tools to become the kind of physician I aspire to be, while learning alongside like-minded peers.



MARIA RODRIGUEZ

- **Fun fact:** I love to cook and bake new recipes in my free time!
- **Why I Joined:** I'm joined the program to gain the confidence and preparation needed to pursue a career in medicine and ultimately also serve the IE and return one day as a provider to our community.



ABTIN SHAFIE

- **Fun fact:** I like to play the piano!
- **Why I Joined:** I decided to join the Program because I want to become more informed on the healthcare needs of Inland Southern California, as I aspire to become a physician.



VIVIAN VARELA

- **Fun fact:** I have two fur babies, one lab named Ace, whom I adopted in college, and one pug named Liuliu!
- **Why I Joined:** I'm excited to be a part of a program and group of like-minded individuals that aligns with my goals of becoming a physician to give back to underserved communities.





GET TO KNOW OUR FUTURE DOCS MENTORS!



= SCHOLAR ALUMNI



= CURRENT SCHOLAR



DAMOLA ADEYEMO

- **Fun fact:** I love crocheting outfits and trying out new recipes in my free time!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined because I remember how meaningful it was to have guidance during my own pre-med journey, and I am excited to help students navigate the process with confidence.



JANET ALBARRAN

- **Fun fact:** I have a pet tortoise!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined as a mentor because I was inspired by my mentors and wanted to give back by guiding others in their journey.



NIALL BAIG

- **Fun fact:** I'm a huge fan of 80s and 90s R&B and New Jack Swing!
- **Why I Joined:** I wanted to be a part of the kind of program I wish I had as a pre-med, and to help students find their "why" and stay motivated on their journey to medicine.



MAHNUR BHARUCHA

- **Fun fact:** I have two rabbits named CoCo and Pebbles!
- **Why I Joined:** I became a mentor to share what I have learned as a medical student and support students navigating their path toward medicine, especially those who are passionate about community health and serving underserved populations.



ALEXANDER FLORES

- **Fun fact:** My abuela owned a Mexican restaurant, and I've learned how to cook many of her recipes!
- **Why I Joined:** I benefited from having wonderful mentors who helped guide me through my medical journey so far, and I would love to do the same for others heading down this path.



SOFIA HORMAZA

- **Fun fact:** I'm a huge movie buff and love Marvel, Harry Potter, all dystopian movies, and fantasy books!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined because I would not be where I am without the mentors who guided me and supported me in my journey, and now I hope to be that for someone else.



PAMELA MUNOZ

- **Fun fact:** I'm a big national park fan! I've been to at least one national park/monument in each of the nine most Western states (WA, MT, ID, OR, WY, UT, NV, CA, AZ).
- **Why I Joined:** I joined to help guide and inspire premed students by sharing the support and insight I wish I'd had on my own path to medicine, and to help them feel confident that they belong in this field and can achieve their goal of becoming physicians.



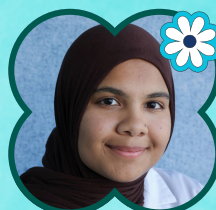
KIMBERLY NAJERA

- **Fun fact:** I love thrifting and even have two closets filled with unique finds!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined to connect with inspiring mentors and learn how to become a more compassionate, community-driven physician.



CHEYENNE PAGE

- **Fun fact:** I used to teach English in South Korea!
- **Why I Joined:** I joined the Future Docs mentorship because I'm passionate about guiding the next generation of docs towards success.



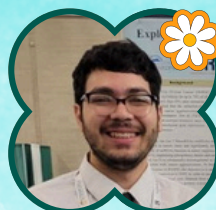
NAJIA SALEEM

- **Fun fact:** Every fall, my family and I harvest dozens of guavas a day from our two trees. It's my favorite part of fall!
- **Why I Joined:** My journey to medical school would not have been possible without the many wonderful mentors I met who guided me selflessly, so I would be honored to give back in the same way.



JESUS TORO

- **Fun fact:** I'm a brown belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu!
- **Why I Joined:** Finding consistent mentorship is often a significant barrier to success, which motivated me to join Future Docs to be the kind of steady mentor I once needed.



DANIEL ZECENA OSORIO

- **Fun fact:** I have hypermobility syndrome!
- **Why I Joined:** I want to help students who are trying to get into medical school by guiding them through the application process and everything that they need, so that they can be better prepared, know what to expect, and simply have less stress.

CENTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS



CSUSB's Spring Career & Internship Fair



CalBaptist's Healthcare Career & Internship Fair



UCR's Health Professions Information Day



Chaffey College's Career Fair



CPCA's Day at the Capitol



NAO AHEC's Leadership Forum



Altamed's Inland Empire Health Workforce Summit

The 2025–2026 program year was marked by several accomplishments for IE AHEC. We welcomed CSUSB intern Erin Velasco as a Program Coordinator supporting Government Affairs and Policy. Through a San Bernardino Community College District grant, we sponsored 11 consortium staff members to participate in a virtual Medical Assistant program to prepare for certification and address workforce turnover. Two of which participated in our scholars program. We also continued attending college and university events to promote the scholars program, career opportunities, and community awareness.

The Inland Empire AHEC was honored to be one of nine centers nationwide and the only center in California that was selected for the Future Docs grant, funded by the Boston Scientific Foundation in partnership with the National AHEC Organization. Our leadership also remained engaged in healthcare workforce advocacy, including visits to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., to advocate for community health centers and AHEC. Additionally, our center director was part of the workforce panel at Altamed's Inland Empire Health Workforce Summit. Most notably, the IE AHEC continued to excel in the Scholars Program, with 44 of California's 254 program completers coming from our center. We look forward to building on these accomplishments and creating even more opportunities in the year ahead.

CHAISR INTERN SPOTLIGHTS

For more than five years, CHAIRS has partnered with California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) to provide healthcare administration and public health students with meaningful, hands-on internship experiences. Each semester, CHAIRS interviews students and selects one intern for a 120-hour internship focused on supporting directors with current projects while gaining practical experience in areas such as data mining, community meetings, professional networking, health education and promotion, and developing health education projects. This partnership is further strengthened through the involvement of Athena Montiel, CHAIRS's Director of Workforce Development and Inland Empire AHEC, who serves on CSUSB's Public Health Advisory Board and has supported the university's Council on Education for Public Health accreditation efforts. The impact of this partnership is evident within CHAIRS, where six of our nine current employees began their careers with the organization as interns. During the past program year, CHAIRS welcomed CSUSB Health Services Administration students Erin Velasco, Brandi Siliezar, Amanda Moreno, and Pauline Botello as interns. Following her graduation, Erin was hired by CHAIRS in January 2026 as a Program Coordinator supporting the Senior Director of Government Affairs and Policy. CHAIRS is proud to continue investing in the next generation of healthcare and public health professionals by providing meaningful workforce opportunities, professional development, and pathways from education into careers.



ERIN VELASCO
FALL 2025 INTERN
BS in Public Health



BRANDI SILIEZAR
SPRING 2025 INTERN
BS in Health Services
Administration



AMANDA MORENO
FALL 2026 INTERN
BS in Public Health



PAULINE BOTELLO
FALL 2026 INTERN
BS in Health Services
Administration

IE AHEC Alumni



From 2018 to 2025, 121 students completed the Inland Empire AHEC Scholars Program. These students completed the program to become doctors, medical assistants, community health workers, social workers, psychologists, dentists, and public health workers. We continued to meet with our alumni subcommittee on a quarterly basis. In this program year's report, we would like to highlight these three AHEC alumni: Genevieve Otuonye, Eunique Tucker Cuevas, and Dr. Maria Macias Lopez.



GENEVIEVE OTUONYE

Program Year: 2021 – 2023

School & Program: West Coast University – Graduate Nursing Student

Current Status: “I am currently a registered nurse at the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System and a Doctor of Nursing Practice student specializing as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.”

Program Impact: “The AHEC Scholars Program strengthened my understanding of community-based, interprofessional healthcare and deepened my commitment to improving access to compassionate, culturally responsive care for diverse and underserved populations!”

Program Year: 2020 – 2022

School & Program: Loma Linda University – Clinical Psychology, PsyD student

Current Status: “I completed my predoctoral internship at Kaiser within the Addiction Medicine and Recovery Service in August 2026. My Doctor of Psychology degree was conferred on June 14, 2026. This fall, I will transition to a postdoctoral fellowship at Kaiser within the Department of Psychiatry, where I will conduct adult autism evaluations.”

Program Impact: “This program offered early exposure to the integration of primary care and mental health, allowing me to understand multidisciplinary care before gaining clinical experience in the field. Participation also allowed me to directly impact my community by increasing education surrounding mental health care within an underserved neighborhood.”



**EUNIQUE TUCKER
CUEVAS**



DR. MARIA MACIAS LOPEZ

Program Year: 2020 – 2022

School & Program: UCR SOM – Graduate medical student

Current Status: I graduated from LLU SOM and completed my family medicine residency in 2025. I am currently working on being a new mom, new practicing physician, and new business owner.

Program Impact: “Being a part of the program gave me a safety blanket because I was not eligible for scholarships or certain programs. There’s a lot to be said about folks that believe in you and encourage you to pursue your dreams, especially if they look like you and understand your community.”



CHAISR'S INTERNS - WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Since 2017, the Inland Empire AHEC has hosted 28 interns, averaging approximately three interns per year, with one student typically selected each semester. Students have pursued degrees in public health, healthcare management, and health services administration at institutions including CSU San Bernardino, Liberty University, UCLA, CSU Northridge, UC Merced, Azusa Pacific University, and Benedictine University. In addition, CHAIRS has partnered with Health Career Connections to provide summer internship opportunities. These experiences have helped create meaningful pathways into the healthcare workforce, with eight former interns going on to join CHAIRS. Seven of whom remain current staff members, including one who is now part of the Inland Empire AHEC team. We are proud to provide students with valuable hands-on experiences and professional development opportunities while strengthening the healthcare workforce across the Inland Empire. Today, we continue to maintain a close partnership with CSUSB, where our Center Director serves on the MPH/Public Health Advisory Board, and we also maintain a community partnership with Azusa Pacific University's MPH program.



JACQUELINE PEREZ

Intern Year: Winter 2019

School & Major: CSUSB – Graduate Health Science student

Current Status: Currently, I work at CHAIRS as the director of Finance and Human Resources. After interning at CHAIRS, I was offered a position as a program coordinator. Within 2 years, I applied to get my MBA, which led to the opportunity to grow in the company and become a director.

Internship Impact: Having the opportunity to intern at CHAIRS helped me grow in my career. When I graduated, I did not know what my future goals were or where I would apply. I believed I wanted to be a nurse, but with the opportunity I got, I had the ability to have hands-on experience in management and loved it.

Intern Year: Spring 2025

School & Major: CSUSB – Graduate Health Service Admin student

Current Status: Currently looking for a job in the Healthcare field.

Internship Impact: The internship greatly impacted me because it gave me insight into the Healthcare field, and it allowed me to see how things work behind the scenes in healthcare, aside from doctors and nurses. It also showed me the importance of jobs like the one you guys do and the impact that you guys have in Healthcare.



MARITZA RANGEL



**STACEY
ZECENA HUYNH**

Intern Year: Winter 2022

School & Major: CSUSB – Graduate Health Science student

Current Status: I currently work at CHAIRS as a Program Coordinator under the Director of Workforce Development & Inland Empire AHEC.

Internship Impact: This internship was more than just fulfilling my class requirement. I was initially a nursing student, but through this experience, I was given the opportunity to broaden my career options and eventually fell in love with administration! I am truly blessed to be given the chance to work at CHAIRS.

Great Job!



THANK
YOU
😊

We extend our sincere thanks to our Scholars & Future Docs students for their hard work and dedication to becoming healthcare leaders in the Inland Empire. We are grateful to our partners for their continued collaboration and shared vision, and to the California AHEC Office for its ongoing support and commitment to helping us meet the needs of our communities.