

Montana WWAMI-AIMA Post-Baccalaureate

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Background

- American Indian (AI) communities face significant inequity in health care and health status
- One factor- the shortage of American Indian physicians
 - less than 0.5% of US physicians are American Indian
 - number of American Indian medical applicants is decreasing
- This is a critical point to address *intentionally*, to reverse this trend and increase the number of Montana AI students matriculating into medical school
 - Providing support and resources directly to American Indian premed students in Montana



Planning

- Planning for the Montana American Indian Post Baccalaureate Program was initiated in 2019 by Dr. Erickson and Dr. Shelby
- Partnering with Dr. Angela McLean, OCHE, a planning grant was awarded from the Montana Health Care Foundation
- Interviews with similar successful programs in other states provided guidance and a draft curriculum was created



Planning Continued

- The Co-Directors have had listening sessions with:
 - all the Montana tribal college presidents
 - the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council leadership
 - Montana American Indian (AI) college students, WWAMI faculty and UWSOM leadership
- Enthusiastic support for the program concept has been universal



Focus of program

- Addressing barriers to medical school matriculation faced by American Indian students by providing opportunities.
- Provide American Indian premed students enrichment, support, encouragement and resources for success on the path to medicine.
 - Resources for academic success
 - Build confidence and create a welcoming and respectful environment
 - Create a no-cost opportunity for Montana American Indian students to prepare for medical school



Eligibility

- Montana residency
- American Indian or Alaskan Native enrolled member
- Rising senior or completed undergraduate degree
- Most or all of premed course work completed
- GPA 2.7 or higher



Student Opportunities

- 3 semesters- Summer, Fall and Spring
- Customized course planning: students take approved premed courses from MSU or UM
- Program courses/seminar sessions include an emphasis on foundational biomedical science, health disparities, epidemiology, fostering study skills-delivered in online and in-person retreat sessions



DRAFT- Curriculum Map
Montana American Indian Post Baccalaureate Program
1-Year (3 Semester) Program Completion

Courses and Seminars	Summer	Autumn	Spring
	Introduction to Medicine	Open for classes	Open for classes
	Population Health Epidemiology	Health Disparity in Montana Indigenous Focus	Indigenous Health and Wellness
	Science of Medicine	Science of Medicine	Science of Medicine
	Study Skills and Wellness	MCAT Preparation	MCAT Preparation
	Research	Research or classes	Research or classes
	Clinical Shadowing	Clinical Shadowing	Clinical Shadowing
	*Monthly seminars	*Monthly seminars	*Monthly seminars

Green bars show timing of retreats *Monthly Saturday seminars with the MT WWAMI Clinical Dean, Dr. Erickson

Student Opportunities Continued

- Volunteer, wellness, shadowing activities
- Attend national meeting (AAIP)
- Mentorship with American Indian physicians
- Tuition waiver
- Living stipend



Ideal Outcome: Opportunity to Interview

- Interview with Montana WWAMI Admissions Committee
 - Successful completion of the program results in an interview invitation with the Montana WWAMI Admissions Committee for consideration of acceptance into UWSOM.
- Interview invitation includes, but is not limited to:
 - Receiving a minimum MCAT score of 495 during or prior to the pathway year
 - Successfully completing all course and program requirements of the WWAMI-AIMA Post-Bacc Program



Montana WWAMI American Indian Post Baccalaureate Program Advisory Board

Neil Sun Rhodes, MD	<i>Arapahoe, Wind River</i>	IHS Family Medicine-Browning
Steve Williamson, MD	<i>Blackfeet</i>	IHS Billings Chief Medical Officer
LeeAnna Muzquiz, MD	<i>Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes</i>	UWSOM Dean for Admissions
William Snell, EdD	<i>Apsáalooke Nation, Crow, Assiniboine</i>	Director- Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council
David Yarlott Jr., EdD	<i>Crow/Korean</i>	President- Little Big Horn College
Angela McLean, EdD		Director- Bitterroot College Director of American Indian/Minority Achievement OCHE
Martin Teintze, PhD	MSU Bozeman	MT WWAMI Foundations Dean
Kailyn Mock, MS	MSU Bozeman	Director of Montana AHEC and ORH
Jay Erickson, MD	Co- Director	MT WWAMI Clinical Dean
Jane Shelby, PhD	Co- Director	UWSOM Affiliate Professor-Bozeman

Administration

- The clinical office of Montana WWAMI administers the statewide program inclusive of all aspiring Montana American Indian students preparing for medical school.
- Co-directors
 - Dr. Jay Erickson
 - Dr. Jane Shelby
- Within 2 years of operation, an AI physician will be recruited as director



Next Steps

- Funding to launch the WWAMI AIMA Post Baccalaureate
 - Current grant proposals are to Cigna Foundation and the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation
 - Seeking 3 years of funding to finalize planning, recruit faculty, with launch year 2.
- Launch – hopefully summer 2024
- Sustainable funding





MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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