

PARTNERS in A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY MEDICAL EDUCATION

UW School of Medicine–Gonzaga University Regional Health Partnership

SPOKANE IS THE PERFECT PLACE FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL STUDENTS



When I decided to attend the University of Washington's School of Medicine on Gonzaga's campus, I was initially most excited about moving to a

new city where I would be challenged to engage with and learn from people who were quite different from the people I felt most comfortable with in my college community in Tacoma. As a fervent advocate for health equity and social justice, I felt impassioned to move to and engage with a region that was fairly different from the one I had grown to know and love so well. I didn't realize how Gonzaga and the surrounding community would so quickly help to facilitate an environment where I could wholly engage in work I was passionate about.

In the first few weeks of classes on Gonzaga's campus, all of the first-year medical students received an email and a million flyers about a Health Equity class that was being offered to UW medical students, Gonzaga law students, Washington State medical students, and Eastern speech therapy students. I signed up in a heartbeat. Not only was I excited to learn more about health equity, but I was excited to do so in community with other professional students. Through the class, I developed some amazing relationships with many of my peers, especially some of the future lawyers from Gonzaga's Law School.

Since then, several of us have engaged

in a variety of community organizing opportunities together: sitting in on protests, advocating to local government officials to inculcate a more equitable community when it comes to health care access, and meeting on our own time at local coffee shops and on Gonzaga's campus to talk about how to challenge ourselves and others in the classroom and in our respective professional environments to be more justice-oriented.

The small-town feel of Spokane combined with the abundance of professional schools surrounding Gonzaga in the middle of the city makes the UW School of Medicine here on Gonzaga's campus extremely unique: it's the perfect place to engage with, learn from, and collaborate with community members, professional students, professors, and policy-makers. I could not be happier with my choice to attend UW School of Medicine here in Spokane!

Taylor Bozich, First-year student



From our newest medical students to our dedicated faculty and network of community volunteers, we are all united by a shared commitment to improving the health and well-being of people across Eastern Washington. Thanks to outstanding community support, we're educating the next generation of physicians and health professionals through a partnership that is strong and focused on the future. We invite you to see what your support has made possible in this, our second annual report to the community.

Ana Mari Cauce
President
University
of Washington

Thayne McCulloh
President
Gonzaga University



Photo credit: Mark Stone/University of Washington

STUDENTS PROMOTE HEALTHY HABITS THROUGH WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Many local elementary students have discovered not all school busses are big and yellow.

Instead of the wheels on the bus going round and round, this bus runs on the foot power and commitment of a group of dedicated student volunteers from the UW School of Medicine. It's called a Walking School Bus; groups of children walking to school with one or more adults. This simple idea can have profound health benefits.

Studies show that fewer children are walking and biking to school, and more children are at risk of becoming overweight. Providing a safe and fun activity, like walking to school with medical students, can help children get a healthy start to their day.

"It's been really amazing to get to know the kids," said Blake Henley, a 2nd-year student and organizer for the program at UW School of Medicine. "The hope is to be consistent role models for them."

The Walking School Bus is part of the Safe Routes to School Spokane program operated by Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD). When leaders of UWSOM's Med for Ed program heard about Walking School Bus, they quickly added it to their roster of

volunteer opportunities in Spokane.

Approximately 15 UWSOM students participate, walking kids from their homes to Bemiss Elementary, one or two times a week. Four volunteers usually accompany five to eight kids. The school identifies the children and helps organize the route.

Other Med for Ed activities include tutoring and assisting in high school classrooms, facilitating high school student shadowing of med school activities, and participating in college outreach fairs.

The staff at Spokane Regional Health District is delighted with the participation of the UW School of Medicine students.

"We sing the medical school students praises," said Annie Szotkowski of SRHD. "They are wonderful to work with. They're real go-getters!"

For more information visit saferoutesspokane.org/



500 physician faculty members in Spokane

240 UW School of Medicine alumni in Spokane County

14 UW School of Medicine students received their undergraduate degrees from Gonzaga University over the past five years

294 clinical rotations completed by medical students in 2018

418 UW School of Medicine student volunteer sessions resulted in

3,400 service learning hours and served more than

6,700 clients served between Nov. 2017 and Nov. 2018

20 approximate number of hours students spent per week in the classroom

12 number of hours students spent per week in clinical settings

12% of the classroom time is spent in the anatomy lab

FOR KEVIN MEASOR, BEING ON THE FACULTY FOR TWO UNIVERSITIES IS A COLLEGE GEEK'S DELIGHT

Gonzaga professor teaches two classes for UW medical school

Kevin Measor is an admitted college geek. "I love college and everything about it," he said.

So, serving on the faculty of two universities suits him perfectly. Measor has been part of the UWSOM-GU Partnership since the two universities joined forces to train the next generation of physicians three years ago.

Measor, who teaches Neurophysiology, 300-level Special Topics in Biology and Introduction to Microbiology, along with other courses at Gonzaga, also serves as a GU Pre-Health advisor. His experience teaching for UW School of Medicine has been helpful when he talks with students about their education and career track.

"I'm a science prof, but you don't have to be a science major to get into medical school," said Measor. "Medical schools like to see students who are passionate about something and that something doesn't have to be science."

Measor regularly conducts STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and

Mathematics) outreach events throughout Spokane, and he never has a shortage of both undergraduate and medical school students eager to help.

When a local high school teacher reached out to him because of his role as Pre-Health advisor, he was able to get four medical school students to talk to the high school group.

"It was a great experience," he said. "The med students love doing stuff like this."

As a former student affairs officer, Measor's passion is mentoring students, and his dual roles have expanded his opportunities for interaction. He's especially excited about a new project that was created because of his connection to the UWSOM-GU Partnership.

Before entering medical school, students are required to job-shadow a physician. Students from rural or underserved areas can have a hard time connecting with physicians.

"Because I have the resource of working with the medical school and GU, there's

access to medical faculty who can help develop a rural shadowing program," said Measor. "This partnership has enabled us to do more things to help undergrads."

With a solid foundation in place, the two universities are leveraging their strengths and momentum to support the success of students, and Measor is thrilled to see how UW students are enjoying the Gonzaga campus.

"The UW students have full access to everything GU students have, so I'll see med school students hanging out at Hemmingson and participating on intramural teams. They've plunged right in," Measor said.

For him that's a sign of how the Partnership has blossomed.

"It's not just about academics, but about all these peripheral opportunities to help our students," he said. "This blending of resources benefits all students and gives them the best education possible."



IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO BUILD A MEDICAL SCHOOL

Ten years ago, after more than 30 years in health sciences and medical affairs at the UW, and co-leading a group of volunteers dedicated to supporting medical students in Seattle, we retired to Spokane. That same year the UW School of Medicine moved its eastern Washington medical school to Spokane from Pullman. This significant step helped to create a dynamic medical education community in Spokane that is stronger than ever today.

To continue our volunteer work supporting medical students, now on the east side of the state, we partnered with David and Mari Clack (both UW alums and Mari a past UW regent) to establish what would become the "Friends of the UW School of Medicine Spokane." The purpose was to provide support and encouragement to the UW medical students in a variety of ways.

Together, and with an expanded group of UW champions, we committed to showing the students how much the Spokane community values their presence, and to encourage them to remain in Spokane and eastern Washington for residency training.

We were very excited when UW School of Medicine partnered with the top-notch Gonzaga University a few years ago, and that partnership has proven fruitful. Last fall, UWSOM and GU welcomed their third class of 60 first-year medical students. With this strong partnership in

place, the UW and GU have created a solid foundation to expand to 80 students in the future.

Much to the credit of funds from the Huckabay Family and the Friends of the UW School of Medicine Spokane, every Spokane medical student who qualifies for scholarship receives one. And thanks to endowed support from the Smith Family, there is additional funding to ensure that instruction, faculty support, and student needs beyond scholarship can be addressed to ensure Spokane students receive a world class medical education.

Most important and extremely gratifying is that through the efforts of the incredible UW and Gonzaga faculty and staff, the

support of the Spokane community and the Friends of the UW School of Medicine Spokane, the students admitted to UW School of Medicine in Washington are now electing to apply to the Spokane program in numbers that exceed the spaces available. This is a far cry from just a few years ago when overflow students in Seattle were mandated to train in Spokane.

Today, the UWSOM/Gonzaga students are thriving and the Spokane community is the proud beneficiary. We look forward to a bright future for our Spokane medical school.

John and Ann Coulter
Friends of UW School of Medicine Spokane

I like being on the Gonzaga campus because the Gonzaga students are more than willing to make us feel a part of their campus. It's great to have a large community around us!

Myra Amad,
UW School of Medicine Spokane student



"I have been blown away by the support offered to our medical students by members of the medical and general community in Spokane. It seems everywhere I go wearing UW School of Medicine gear, somebody mentions how happy and proud they are that we are training in Spokane."

Brett Degraff,
UW School of Medicine Spokane student



Photo credit: Mark Stone/University of Washington



"Spokane is built on partnerships. They drive and move our community forward, especially in education, and have opened so many new doors to learning, advancement, and growth as individuals and a region. We are fortunate to have high-caliber medical education opportunities for tomorrow's professionals to learn, train, and work right here in Spokane."

Shelley Redinger,
UWSOM-GU Regional Health Partnership Advisory Board



The 2018 entering class of UW School of Medicine Spokane students is thriving as they experience a college campus, experienced faculty and a supportive community.

UWSOM ALUMS MENTOR SPOKANE MEDICAL STUDENTS

As medical school students face a rigorous curriculum and demanding schedules in their journey toward becoming the next generation of physicians, there's a physician-alumni network from the UW School of Medicine who are paying it forward through their mentorship and support.

The 'Student-Alumni Informational Discussions' program, known as SAID, connects incoming medical students with UW School of Medicine alumni in the Spokane region. The alumni host small groups of students in their homes and meet at local restaurants and coffee shops for lively conversations about professional practice, residency, work-life balance, and other topics on student's minds.

Since the UW Medicine Alumni Association launched SAID in Spokane in 2017, more than 30 UW School of Medicine alums representing 15 medical specialties – from family medicine to neurology, oncology, surgery and more – have connected with nearly 75 Spokane-based medical students for meals and mentorship.

Students have enthused:

"It was simultaneously rewarding and interesting having the opportunity to speak with a physician in their home setting among their family. The casual and welcoming nature of the event was a much needed change of pace that I appreciated."

"These doctors were so down to earth and real about their past experiences. I loved talking to them because they could give advice that I found extremely helpful."

The alumni have also found the experience rewarding:

"I feel it's important to give back to the education system any way that you can. This is a fun way to do it, and the students give me a bit more energy to do my job."

If you are an M.D., residency or fellowship alumna/us of the UW School of Medicine and would like more information on volunteering for SAID, you may visit uwmedalumni.org/said or contact UW School of Medicine Alumni Office at medalum@uw.edu.



UW School of Medicine alums, Drs. Darren and Cindy Hollenbaugh (second and third from right) hosted five UW medical students in 2018.



"The University of Washington and Gonzaga University Regional Health Partnership brings to the community a unique model of institutional collaboration that will deliver to our communities not only well trained physicians, but also future community leaders. We all benefit from the process of medical education as patients and providers; the end result is better care, better access and better outcomes for all."

Francisco R. Velazquez M.D., S.M.



Photo credit: Mark Stone/University of Washington

"I chose Spokane over Seattle because the smaller class size allows me to build better relationships with my classmates and faculty. We get to know each other pretty well! This closeness has created a very supportive environment—people are quick to offer encouragement and support."



Taryn Meacham,
UW School of Medicine Spokane
student



Photo credit: Mark Stone/University of Washington

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uwmedicine.org/som

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