
2017

SKMC Council on Diversity and Inclusion

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Student Advisory Board

The Board serves as a bridge between the student body and the ODII at SKMC. We bring information, concerns, and suggestions directly to the Office to expand diversity and inclusion efforts within the student body and throughout the curriculum. A group of student advisors meets regularly with the Associate and Assistant Deans for Diversity to regularly dialogue on new and ongoing initiatives related to diversity and inclusion at SKMC.

Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA)

The Jefferson Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) provides a voice to underrepresented students on campus, educates and advocates for Latino and immigrant rights and health issues, and promotes volunteerism and activism in the Latino community of Philadelphia.

Some major organizational highlights include a Medical Spanish course (allowing students to learn and practice medically-relevant Spanish for use in the clinical setting), clinical volunteering at Puentes de Salud (a free health clinic serving the uninsured/undocumented Hispanic/Latino community of South Philadelphia), and community mentoring/educational outreach at Esperanza High School (through the Health Careers Academy program).

Medical Spanish Translator Program

Communication between the physician and patient is vital to ensuring the best patient care. When English is not the patient's primary language, a potentially significant barrier may exist that prevents the proper exchange of information needed for the best outcome. In 2015, two SKMC students, Daniel Sentena Lledo and Joseph Villavicencio, SKMC 2018, in collaboration with Dr. Bernie Lopez (Office of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives) and Dr. Sal Mangione (Director of Humanities), developed a new course designed to educate first year SKMC students who are fluent in Spanish to become well-versed in Medical Spanish and to be able to better care for Spanish-speaking patients. In the first year, students complete a six-month intensive on-line Medical Spanish Course (Canopy Medical Spanish, developed by the National Institutes of Health). Students who successfully complete the course receive credit for their first year humanities. Students also participate in medical care at Puentes De Salud (and continue in their second and third years of medical school). In the fourth year, students will be offered the opportunity to spend a one-month elective abroad to further develop and hone their medical translation skills.



SKMC Council on D & I

The SKMC Council for Diversity and Inclusion (D & I) is charged with reviewing and assessing the status and effectiveness of diversity and inclusion initiatives at SKMC and makes recommendations regarding initiatives, policies, and resources needed to achieve desired outcomes. Headed by Mark L. Tykocinski, MD, the Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean of SKMC, and co-chaired by Dr. Bernie Lopez, the Council determines the course of diversity and inclusion at SKMC with input from members who are deans, department chairs, faculty, administrators, residents and students.

The Council has accomplished the following:

1. Completed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis of D & I at SKMC
2. Developed and implemented a twenty-five point action plan list based on the SWOT analysis
3. Made specific recommendations regarding faculty, resident, student and staff recruitment and retention
4. Created a compendium of health disparities research and service within SKMC
5. Developed and created an SKMC-specific D & I scorecard of metrics to measure the progress of D & I. As we routinely measure workforce diversity, these metrics were developed to measure the inclusivity of our environment

