

**THE UPWARD MOBILITY PREMEDICAL PROGRAM
FOR WOMEN AND MINORITY STUDENTS DESIGNED
TO FACILITATE THEIR ADMISSION TO THE NATION'S
MEDICAL SCHOOLS.**

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SUMMARY: This unique and highly successful Premedical Program which was developed to assist High School Seniors and College Students, especially Women and members of Minority Groups, to enter Medical School, lasted for twenty consecutive years (1970-1990) and was based at two Veterans Administration Medical Centers (Sepulveda and Martinez VA), affiliated with UCLA and UC, Davis Schools of Medicine respectively. High School Seniors, and College Students from UC, Berkeley, UC, Davis, the California State Universities and Community Colleges of the San Francisco Bay Area, participated in the program.

A Class of about 150 Students per year met every Saturday at 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the hospital Auditorium for a special lecture always given by distinguished speakers, such as senior Medical School Faculty, Deans, Chancellors, elected Officials, such as Members of Congress, members of the California Legislature, Judges, Attorneys, and other professionals.

The lecture series included overviews in Clinical Medicine, in Basic Science and on general topics designed to shape leadership qualities, values and attitudes. Emphasis was also placed on self-discipline, self-development, time-budgeting, on good study habits and on scholastic achievement especially in achieving a high GPA and high MCAT scores; and on humanistic aspects of Medicine, personal motivation and public service. On the last Saturday of the month the parents were invited to attend the class as well.

The students were registered and worked as volunteers at various sections of the Hospital and received counseling sessions, individually and in groups. This was a highly successful program with a strong motivational, inspirational and self-discipline component. The students maintained a dressing code, requiring a short white coat, and also appropriate manners and attitudes, which were required when dealing with patients.

This unique program has proven to be a cost effective method for:

- 1. Increasing the applicant pool with suitable candidates for the nation's Medical Schools.**
- 2. Augmenting the image of the University of California within the Community.**
- 3. Achieving upward mobility for women and students from minority groups, by their admission to Medical School.**

From 1970 to 1974, at the Sepulveda VA Medical Center affiliated with UCLA School of Medicine and from 1974 to 1990, at the Martinez VA Medical Center Affiliated with UC, Davis School of Medicine the Program assisted approximately 2,500 undergraduate students, to enter Medical School. Today many former Premedical Students are now practicing physicians scattered all over Northern California and beyond. The program, if properly organized, can be adopted at any University or Community Medical Center with assured success.

In recognition of its enormous significance in achieving upward mobility for women and minority students, by facilitating their admission to Medical School, the Program was introduced into the Congressional Record twice: First in April 12, 1976 by the Hon. Robert I. Leggett of Sacramento CA [E 1981], and second time by the Hon. Barbara Boxer of San Francisco, in June 2, 1983[E 2659].

The Program was also described in detail with the Title: Recruiting Students for Medicine, in the Annals of Internal Medicine, Vol 111, No 3, 1989, pp.433-436.

Finally, due to the significance of this Premedical Program as Service to the Community at large, coupled with many other accomplishments, this writer was proposed for the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1979, by the Hon. Vic Fazio of Vallejo CA, (please see letter from the White House). Thank you.