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Re: Transformative experience for gap year students

Dear Pre-health Advisor,

We are currently accepting applications for the summer 2013 cohort of our Certificate in Consumer Health Advocacy. We encourage you to share this opportunity with aspiring health professionals who plan to take time off between their undergraduate experience and additional schooling. Our 12-credit personalized, service-learning based program is now available online. If you have recent graduates who are looking for a meaningful experience which involves direct patient contact and learning firsthand how the health care system operates, please encourage them to consider our interdisciplinary certificate program.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for Patient Partnerships has a longstanding reputation as one of the oldest and most prestigious patient advocacy education providers, and we are delighted to now be able to reach students far and wide without changing our model which offers students a core experience of providing advocacy to patients.

Students in our program learn to understand the challenges in our health care system from the perspectives of patients and other system stakeholders. Throughout our program we explore the many facets of advocacy—traversing topics that range from the implications of an insurance-based health care delivery system to the importance of engaging patients in their own care, and the role of clinicians in system level advocacy and health care reform. Learners experience several crosscutting themes in our curriculum: empathy, empowerment, patient-centered problem-solving, deep listening, and system change.

Here's what some of our students are saying about our program:

"At the CPP you get to experience a side to healthcare that future physicians will not see in any of their four years of medical school or residency. It changed both the way that I think about patients

and the way I think about the healthcare system. It gave me a new compassion for the difficulty many patients have with navigating the healthcare system. More importantly, the CPP teaches you how to listen, collaborate with and empower patients. These are skills that are fully transferable to almost any area of your life, but will definitely make you a more empathetic and effective clinical provider. The CPP also changed my perspective on what I perceive as my role as a healthcare provider and has pointed me on a trajectory to find a greater role healthcare system reform."

"The supervisors at the CPP are dedicated patient advocates and educators that put your experience as a student at the CPP as priority number one. They are supportive, insightful and inspiring. The interdisciplinary team approach offers a variety of perspectives and allows for collaborations that most students never get to experience. I think every medical student should have an experience with the CPP both to gain the skills of patient advocacy and to understand what 'healthcare' really entails away from the bedside or clinic."

"My experience here at the Center has already had a huge impact on how I talk and think. I listen much better than I used to; I ask questions I never would've before. I feel much more confident talking about illness and cancer and death than I used to. All useful skills in any walk of life. ... I know my experience here has influenced my decision to look for opportunities to work with the underserved people within my own community."

We hope you will explore our website to learn more: www.patientpartnerships.org/certificate/.

If we can provide more information, or if you would like promotional materials sent to your office, please don't hesitate to contact Carole Kolb at ctkolb@wisc.edu or 608-262-4013. Below we have included a suggested program descriptor to email recent graduates and future prospective "gap year" students. We hope to hear from you.

Thank you,



Sarah Davis &
Assoc. Director



Kathy O'Connell
Director of Educational Development

Suggested program descriptor to include in an email to prospective students:

The Center for Patient Partnerships' Consumer Health Advocacy Capstone Certificate offers a unique experience for students planning to attend medical school, a physician assistant program, or other health program. This 12-credit certificate includes extensive direct patient contact as students learn by advocating for patients on issues related to insurance and medical debt, access and disparities, and medical decision-making. Learning by providing community service offers rich benefits to patients and students alike. Additional coursework provides context about the health care system including public benefits, public health, and the role of health advocacy for clinicians – at the individual patient and systems levels. The certificate is available on-campus and online from an interdisciplinary center of the Schools of Medicine & Public Health, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Law at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They are currently accepting applications for the summer 2013 cohort. Explore www.patientpartnerships.org/certificate/ for more information about the course of study and admissions criteria.