



HSHPS
HISPANIC-SERVING HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOLS

Press Release

Contact: Verónica Kennedy
(202) 293-2701 ext. 105
vkennedy@hshps.org
<http://www.hshps.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HSHPS AWARDS 17 STUDENTS WITH INTERNSHIPS AT CDC IN ATLANTA

17 Hispanic students are given the chance to further their classroom learning with hands-on practice in public health and medicine.

Washington DC (June 15)– With recent reports of Hispanics as the largest minority in the United States and the challenge of providing access to quality healthcare, 17 students are being groomed to become the next generation of champions for this cause. Armed with the tools and knowledge gained in their years of schooling, both at an undergraduate and graduate level, these 17 individuals have been given the chance to take what they have learned and apply it to the research that will help bring about an answer to the healthcare crisis within the Hispanic community in the United States.

The Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools (HSHPS), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), launched the 2005 Student Internship Program on June 6. There, the “class of 2005”, as the HSHPS staff refers to them, will work hand-in-hand with some of the leading international researchers in the world on such issues as AIDS prevention, Cancer research, and culturally competent approaches to medical treatment and health education.

The internship program was started four years ago when HSHPS officials realized the need for Hispanic students to gain real-life experience and hands-on training in medicine and public health. Partnering with the CDC, HSHPS was able to send three students to the Atlanta campus that year. Since its inception, the internship program has grown exponentially every year, with the class of 2005 being almost six times the size of the first. “We are very excited for this year’s program. The class of 2005 is as impressive as they are inspiring, and have already enjoyed great success with their graduate careers; the projects they are working on for their internships will have a great impact on their futures.” HSHPS Interim Executive Director Arlenin Perez-Dushku said, “We are so pleased to be providing these students with this internship.”

HSHPS’s program provides students with the opportunity to work with professional researchers on projects in critical public health areas, and get a firsthand view of working at the CDC. Since 1946, the CDC has been on the front line in public health efforts to prevent and control infectious and chronic diseases, injuries, workplace hazards, disabilities, and environmental health threats.

HSHPS’s mission is to improve the health of Hispanics through academic development, research initiatives, and training. Since 1996, HSHPS has been assisting students in developing skills related to prevention research, surveillance, public health policy, and career development. The HSHPS/CDC Student Internship program facilitates the mission by helping medical and public health students educate themselves in the career opportunities and inner workings of the federal government as related to the health professions.