2013 Diversity Mini-Grant Program Recipients

Indiana University School of Optometry

Eye Do – Through a one-day program, Eye Do introduces the Optometric profession to selected student groups that focus on underrepresented minorities and first-generation students already attending Indiana University. Eye Do features a tour of IUSO and its clinic conducted by NOSA student members, a power point ‘Welcome’ presentation outlining the OD Program and what makes for a competitive applicant, an interactive clinical optics lab experience including the viewing of the outer and inner eye led by an IUSO faculty member, lunch with an alumni keynote speaker followed by a ‘mock class’ taught by an IUSO faculty member designed to give participants an idea of expectations at the professional school level. The day concludes with a geometric optics demonstration and an OD student panel.

Illinois College of Optometry

Focus on Your Future Summer Program – The purpose of this week-long program is to expose underrepresented minority community college, undergraduate, and post-baccalaureate students to the profession of optometry from various levels. Participants have the opportunity to meet and work with current optometry students, ICO faculty and staff, as well as practicing alumni. The students participate in sample lectures, seminars on a variety of topics, admission workshops, and student/OD panels.

Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry

The Preparatory Optometry Program (POP) – This program, in conjunction with the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, is designed to evaluate and demonstrate the potential academic ability of a student to successfully complete the professional optometry program. POP students learn side-by-side with professional optometry and other health professions students at Nova Southeastern University’s Health Professions Division. The POP provides a unique platform to assist minority students in the pursuit of an optometric education. By offering opportunities to participate in the POP, NOVA helps reach minority students and attempts to ensure their success in a professional optometry program.

The Ohio State University College of Optometry

Community Outreach at Schools and the University (C-OSU) – The goal of C-OSU is to develop a pipeline from several central Ohio area middle schools and high schools, through the I-DOC program, to matriculation at the College of Optometry by encouraging underrepresented students to stay in school, take science courses to prepare for careers in the health sciences, and consider careers in optometry. Participants from three central Ohio middle schools and one Columbus high school receive visits two
times during the academic year. Two different hands-on modules: “Anatomy of the Eye” and “Eye Care for All” featuring labs and dissection are presented. Undergraduate students from the pre-optometry club and optometry students who are members of the National Optometric Student Association participate in these interactions and serve as mentors and role models for the students.

**SUNY State College of Optometry**

**Increasing Diversity by Engaging All (IDEA)** – This project involves the creation of a social media platform specifically designed to engage underrepresented minority students in a dialogue. The centerpiece of this dialogue is the profession of optometry and how students can successfully become optometrists. This project strives to give underrepresented minority students the tools they need to successfully apply and be accepted into an optometry program.

**University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry**

**Providing Diversity in Optometric Education through Continual Enhancement of Current Programs that Promote Diversity in Optometry** – This program was developed to perform two tasks – minority recruitment and minority retention. The Explorers Post program introduces middle school students to the profession of optometry and the Community Outreach Development (CORD) introduces high school and middle school students to the sciences and healthcare professions. UABSO also enhances relationships with participant schools that have the largest minority populations. Once students matriculate, students have access to the Intro to UABSO Program, which assists students adapting to professional school, and to the Brown Bag Lecture Series.

**University of California-Berkeley School of Optometry**

**Berkeley Optometry Opto-Camp** – The goal of Berkeley Optometry Opto-Camp is to introduce first generation, underrepresented pre-health science majors to optometry as a potential future career track and to prepare them to be successful applicants to optometry school. This three-day “in-residence” experience provides participants with opportunities to learn about the profession of optometry and the process of becoming an optometrist. Additionally, by featuring key faculty and staff members to participate in this program, diversity awareness is heightened.

**University of Houston College of Optometry**

**Texas Optometry Career Opportunities Program (TEXOCOP)** – TEXOCOP is a unique 6-week intense summer academic program, established in 1987, designed to address the recruitment and retention of underserved and/or educationally disadvantaged pre-optometry students. The curriculum plan has three objectives: 1) to provide academic instruction in subjects known to be challenging to first-year optometry students; 2) to introduce prospective students to the rigors of the professional program; and 3) to assist students with the transition from the undergraduate to the professional school environment. Since its inception, TEXOCOP has a proven record of success and participants of the program have demonstrated success, both as students and upon graduation, as optometric professionals.