



MEDICAL EDUCATION  
SCHOLARSHIP CENTRE

## Medical Education Scholarship Forum Proceedings

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### **Offering pre-admission pathway programs for aboriginal youth: What benefits is the Faculty of Medicine really reaping?**

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**Purpose:** The Aboriginal Health Initiative has been in place at the MUN Faculty of Medicine since November 2008. The initial mandate of the initiative is to support Aboriginal youth for successful admittance into the undergraduate medical education program. To fulfill this mandate, various programs, namely, the Pre-Med Orientation Program, the Pre-Med Summer Institute, and the MCAT Prep Award have been implemented. As of fall 2015, through the Aboriginal Admissions Program co-developed with the Aboriginal Health Initiative Office, 20 Aboriginal students are now studying at MUN medical school. The purpose of this poster presentation is to show that the benefits enjoyed by the Faculty of Medicine are multi-dimensional exceeding well beyond the primary aim of the initiative. In striving for equitable inclusion of underserved populations, such as members of Aboriginal Peoples, research shows that medical schools, through investing in such programs, gain considerably more than meeting the requirements of an accreditation standard (Saha, Guiton, Wimmers, and Wilkerson, 2008; Whitla, Orfield, Silen, Teperow, Howard & Reede, 2003). In short, as an institution we are shaped by who we include, as much as by what we teach (World Health Report 2006). **Methods:** Quantitative and qualitative data are used to indicate that the various programs created within the Aboriginal Health Initiative are bearing fruit. Data is provided for both individual pathway programs and an aggregate of these programs. We also show that the benefits of offering such programs extend well beyond the fulfillment of an inclusion policy as reflected in narratives generated from a survey. Survey respondents are comprised of medical students and members of the Aboriginal communities. **Results:** The data identify a robust range of benefits accrued to the MUN Faculty of Medicine through the establishment of the Aboriginal Health Initiative as an equity program. **Conclusion:** The poster presentation highlights the overall contributions such programs make to the culture of the MUN Faculty of Medicine as an institute of learning.