STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program

INFORMATION

This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

MEDEX Northwest, established in 1969, is proud of its long-standing mission to train healthcare providers who will practice primary care in medically underserved and rural areas of the UW School of Medicine’s service region. MEDEX also has a formal agreement to train students from Nevada. Most of our 2,100-plus graduates work in the WWAMI region.

MEDEX offers a competency-based training program that accepts applicants with previous healthcare experience, such as nurses (at any level), EMTs, Alaska community health aides, medical assistants, athletic trainers, former military corpsmen, etc. Four classroom sites serve students from a wide geographic range, and clinical training takes place throughout the WWAMI region and beyond. MEDEX students fulfill the program’s mission to improve access to primary health care as well as developing new professional roles for PAs.

MEDEX Northwest operates as a section under the Department of Family Medicine, UW Medicine. Our faculty and staff bring considerable experience to the MEDEX program. The core faculty includes PAs with between 2 and 35-plus years of experience, physicians and research faculty. The cross-site staff includes individuals with extensive involvement in and familiarity with the field of PA education and student assistance.

The following video is the story of two students from the first MEDEX class that impacted healthcare in the rural town of Othello, Washington.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYfh2XNHjvU

SPOKANE SITE SPECIFIC DETAILS

- The Spokane site opened in 1997
  - Class size was 13 students
- Classroom was relocated to WSU Riverpoint Campus in Fall 2008
  - That year, the class had a total of 22 students
MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program (continued p. 2)

- In 2009, Spokane begins offering a Masters of Clinical Health Services Degree
  - Spokane students choose between the Bachelors of Clinical Health Services or Masters of Clinical Health Services Degree
- Spokane site employs the following people:
  - 4 full-time and 2 part-time didactic faculty, including site director and didactic coordinator
  - 1 clinical faculty
  - 2 staff
- MEDEX Spokane has graduated 377 students*
  - 78% work in one of the WWAMI states
  - 50% work in Washington state
  - 42% work in Eastern Washington state
  - 46% work in family practice, including internal medicine and pediatrics
- 2016-2017 school year
  - Spokane Class 19 transition to clinical year on September 12th
    - 29 students
    - Graduate August 2017
  - Spokane Class 20 begins fall quarter classes on September 19th
    - 30 students
    - Graduate August 2018
- Plans for future on Gonzaga University campus
  - Build Interprofessional groups with medical students, nurse practitioner and nursing students
  - Standardized Patient opportunities for GU acting students
  - Active participation on campus
  - Student volunteer work in the community with other GU students
  - Build awareness of PA program in Spokane on the Gonzaga campus

*Numbers based on response from 68% of graduates

Attachments
MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program
Presenter Bios
MEDEX Northwest
Physician Assistant Program

UW Board of Regents Meeting
September 8, 2016

Terry Scott, MPA, PA-C
Program Director, Section Chief
Physician assistants (PAs) practice in all areas of medicine. They are well represented in primary care medicine, which includes the areas of family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics. PAs also practice in medical subspecialties, general and specialty surgery and psychiatry.
Richard Smith, MD
Founder, MEDEX Northwest
2016 Accepted Class Statistics
Total applicants 1294
Total applicants interviewed 335
Total offers made 142
Students expected summer quarter 134

Master of Clinical Health Services Degree Option

Seattle  Class 50  52 Students
Spokane  Class 20  30 Students

Bachelor of Clinical Health Service Degree Option

Anchorage  Class 8  23 Students
Tacoma  Class 4  29 Students
Re-applicants  40  (29.9%)
New Applicants  94  (70.1%)

Mean age of accepted class: 31

Gender make-up of accepted class
65 Male Students  (48.5%)  69 Female Students  (51.5%)

Military Experience:  20 Students with Military Background  (14.9%)
Ethnic Background

American Indian/AK Native American  3  (2%)
African American                   5  (4%)
Caucasian                          104 (77%)
Asian/Other Asian                  12 (9%)
Mexican American/Chicano           10 (7%)
No Answer                          0  (0%)

The Most Common Patient Care Backgrounds among MEDEX Students

Medical Assistant                  25 students
Military Medic/Corpsman            20 students
Paramedicine                       16 students
Nursing Professions                15 students
Many non-WWAMI students (20%) selected have ties to the region with prior military service, work experience or family in the area. Several students have direct ties to the Native populations in the region and most stated they wanted to continue to work with rural and underserved populations.
# Applicant Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Total MEDEX Class (all 4 sites)</th>
<th>Applicant Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>134</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-Applicants</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Applicants</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Age</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 20-25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 26-30</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 31-35</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 36-40</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 41-45</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 46+</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Background</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years Direct Care Exp.</td>
<td>5.4 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA Average</td>
<td>3.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2016 Spokane Class 20 Class Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>17%</th>
<th>83%</th>
<th>53%</th>
<th>47%</th>
<th>33</th>
<th>(range 23 – 52)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Re-Applicants</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Applicants</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>(range 23 – 52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 20-25</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 26-30</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 31-35</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 36-40</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 41-45</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 46 +</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Background</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Years Direct Care Exp. Average GPA 4.8 years 3.4
Spokane Site History

- Spokane Class 1 began in 1997 with 13 students in the 5th and Browne Medical Building
- Part-time program offered from 2005-2008
- Classroom moves to Riverpoint Campus in 2008
- Spokane site offers Masters of Clinical Health Services Degree in 2009
- Program moves to Gonzaga University in 2016
- Spokane site now accepts between 30-35 students each year
Spokane Graduates

- 377 Physician Assistant graduates trained at Spokane site
- 78% of Spokane graduates work in one of the WWAMI states
- 42% of Spokane graduates work in Eastern Washington state
- 46% of Spokane graduates work in Family Practice, including internal medicine and pediatrics
Program Goals

- Contribute to regional primary care workforce needs by training culturally-competent PAs for strategic areas of need in the WWAMI region and Nevada.

- Maintain a flexible and innovative curriculum capable of responding to the changing health care system and the evolution of the PA profession.

- Recruit qualified individuals from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds for careers as physician assistants.

- Utilize community-based clinical preceptorships to develop effective physician–physician assistant relationships.

- Develop, implement and maintain MEDEX decentralized didactic training sites in the region for the purpose of increasing access to physician assistant training.
Terry Scott, MPA, PA-C
Assistant Professor, Section Head, Program Director

I grew up during a time of segregation in the midst of the civil rights movement, and I remember the struggle for equality and the disparate healthcare in my community. As a young person growing up in rural East Texas, I was moved by my environment where I witnessed the poor health outcomes in my community. These were not just statistics, but real impacts on day-to-day morbidity and mortality.

As a teenager in the 1970s, my family moved to Seattle, where I attended Garfield High School. Through the Seattle Public Schools Work Training Program, I was fortunate to work at the UW Health Sciences each day after school and during the summers. This gave me a valuable opportunity to train, work with and be exposed to those in the medical field. As a lab technician, I worked in the Virology Division when HIV was in its early stages in America, and was honored to work with some very bright clinical researchers. I am a graduate of MEDEX Class 25 (class president), and have trained and worked in both rural and urban communities in Washington. I have also worked in HIV vaccine research and have provided primary care to HIV-positive patients. I joined the MEDEX faculty in 1996, and maintain a practice at the University of Washington Family Practice Residency. In 2007, I was elected to the City Council in Shoreline, Washington. In this position I was able to successfully advocate for funding to support vulnerable populations in our community. This included developing a “Healthy City” strategy to ensure the community’s access to much-needed human services.

As a young child in the 1960’s, I was profoundly impacted by the nonviolent civil rights struggle, and the words of Martin Luther King. As a result, my personal mission has been one of love and service: I’ve loved my fellow human being enough to care, and cared enough to act in service to others. I entered the MEDEX program as a student in 1991, because I determined the school’s mission was in alignment with my own core values.
Stacia Reagan, PA-S
Senior Student – MEDEX Northwest

I was raised in rural Southeast Alaska, where access to the hospital was only available by bush plane or ferry. My desire to work in the medical field happened at a very young age, and at the age of 14, I was able to assist in a home delivery when our neighbor went into labor. After high school, I went to Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington. While pursuing my bachelor’s degree, I took one year off to become a Certified Medical Assistant. I then started my career as a medical assistant, where I learned about quality patient care, caring for the person as a whole, and the importance of strong verbal and nonverbal communication skills.

Eventually, I became the director of the Spokane Community College Medical Assistant Program. In 2005, I started to talk about how to bring low and no-cost healthcare to the financially struggling, often uninsured, student population at SCC. Through networking, grant writing, strategy meetings, and many sleepless nights, my dream became a reality in 2006. The SCC Student Health Clinic now has designated space on campus with six exam rooms, an own laboratory, five regular providers, and mental health counseling.

As the director of the MA program, I also worked to expand the program into rural and underserved populations. In 2009, I launched the first online/lab cohort of the MA program and in June of 2014 I was given permission to expand. I immediately concentrated on rural, underserved medical communities and chose Republic, Washington. Within weeks, I had secured a location, clinics that would work with our students, and filled the class to capacity.

When I made the decision to pursue my life goal of becoming a Physician Assistant, I researched various options. I specifically chose MEDEX Northwest based on two critical factors: the longstanding accreditation status with ARC-PA and the stellar reputation in the community for graduating high-quality, competent Physician Assistants. I am excited to be a part of this program in Spokane, where I have established many relationships in the medical field and will continue to grow them as a PA.