



Asian American Health Scholars Program

The Need

Communication is one of the most important components of effective, attentive health care. The rapport and trust between a health care professional and a patient is crucial, and language is perhaps the single most important aspect of this relationship.

Non-English speaking patients experience better interpersonal care, greater medical comprehension, and greater likelihood of keeping followup appointments when they see a language-concordant practitioner. These findings indicate that greater diversity among health professionals will likely lead to improved healthcare delivery and care for underserved populations. It will also increase opportunities for minority patients to be treated by health care professionals with whom they share a common race, ethnicity or language. This is associated with better patient-practitioner relationships and communication, which may increase a patient's likelihood of receiving and accepting appropriate medical care (The Rationale for Diversity in the Health Professions: A Review of the Evidence; U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions; October 2006).

Our Response

The goal of United Health Foundation's Diverse Scholars Initiative is to increase the number of qualified college graduates entering the health workforce. We believe that investing in the development of health professionals of diverse, multicultural backgrounds will help improve the quality of culturally-proficient health care delivery, close the health disparities gap, and improve long term health outcomes.

Our Asian American Health Scholars Program is administered through the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund. Please visit their Web site (www.apiasf.org) for further information and details.

Learn more about United Health
Foundation's Diverse Scholars Initiative at
<http://www.unitedhealthfoundation.org/dsi.html>.



United Health Foundation®