



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

School of Pharmacy

HISPANIC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN PHARMACY

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration established the Center of Excellence grant program to “catalyze institutional commitments to under-represented (URM) students and faculty” with the goal of providing educational and training opportunities that focus on increasing racial and ethnic diversity among health professionals and addressing minority health issues.”

The Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy (LLUSP) Hispanic Center of Excellence in Pharmacy (HCEP) will: 1) strengthen San Bernardino County, California, and the surrounding area’s capacity to produce a quality, diverse pharmacy workforce; 2) serve as an innovative education resource to recruit, train, and retain Hispanic students and faculty; 3) improve clinical education and cultural competence for minority health issues and social determinants of health; 4) develop structured programs to train Hispanic and other URM students to provide pharmacy services to Hispanic and other URM individuals at community-based settings remote from our main campus.

MAJOR PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

DEVELOP a large, competitive applicant pool of Hispanic students through linkages with higher education, local school districts, and other community-based entities to establish educational pipelines.

IMPROVE the capacity for recruitment, training, and retention of Hispanic academic pharmacists through the payment of stipends and fellowships.

STRENGTHEN programs to enhance Hispanic student academic performance through mentoring and academic support services.

FACILITATE faculty and student research on health disparities that disproportionately affect Hispanic communities, including research on issues relating to the delivery of health care and health equity.

KEY INSTITUTIONAL FACTS

Loma Linda University has been designated as a Hispanic-serving institution.

Over the past five academic years:

- 17.4% of students enrolled at LLUSP identified as Hispanic/Latinx
- 8.2% of PharmD graduates identified as Hispanic/Latinx
- Hispanic students have higher GPAs at graduation than non-Hispanic students (3.51 vs. 3.43).
- The on-time graduation rate for Hispanic students is comparable to non-Hispanic students (86.7% vs. 91.0%)

ABOUT THE HCEP PROGRAM

1. Thirteen \$15,000 scholarships per year to PY1 - PY4 students who are chosen as HCEP scholars. This is a total of \$195,000/year in scholarship support for Hispanic pharmacy students.
2. Five \$1000 stipends per year for HCEP scholar-faculty mentored summer research projects.
3. Five \$1000 stipends per year for residency application and travel support for PY4 HCEP scholars who pursue post-graduate residency training.

Academic support services include:

- In collaboration with the LLU School of Behavioral Health, training in stress management techniques using the community resilience model (CRM)
- ESL support services (as needed)
- Structured mentoring programs

The grant also provides for the establishment of the two-year HCEP Fellows Program for three residency-trained Hispanic PharmD graduates.

The HCEP Fellows will receive:

1. A competitive salary and benefits package
2. Training in research, teaching, and mentoring
3. Research expense support
4. Mentored community-based practice sites at the Loma Linda University SAC Clinic and the Inland Empire Health Plan.

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