

## Meet Adan Fuentes, DO . . .

Before deciding to pursue a career in medicine, Adan Fuentes was an actor, a director, and an educator. Through his experiences as an educator in a primarily Hispanic community, Dr. Fuentes noticed the lack of Hispanic health care providers. He decided to do something about it. As a non-traditional medical student, Dr. Fuentes felt he needed an additional boost to be successful in medical school. He applied to the Summer Scholars program at the Center of Excellence (COE) at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OUCOM). The program provided six weeks of rigorous coursework, including clinical experience and seminars on case-based problem solving, time management and study skills, and cultural competency, designed to simulate the schedule of a first year medical student. The COE programs at OUCOM gave Dr. Fuentes the confidence he needed to succeed in medical school. A practicing otolaryngologist, Dr. Fuentes is also an associate professor for the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine and faculty for the Otolaryngology Residency Training Program at Grandview Medical Center.



*“The COE program introduced and reinforced challenging concepts that were essential to succeeding in medical school. After participating in the program, these concepts were easily mastered as a medical student.”*

### About the Program

- The Health Careers Opportunity Program and COE are authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. Together, they function to increase the representation of minority and disadvantaged students in the health professions.
- The OUCOM Summer Scholars program provides students with an introduction to osteopathic medicine. The program teaches students the basics of biomedical sciences and research methods, and allows them to become familiar with problem-based learning using case studies, small group discussions, lectures, labs, independent study, use of computers and pre-clinical observations. Additionally, the program helps with interviewing skills.
- The OUCOM Summer Scholars program strives to build cultural competency by allowing students to work as part of a team with other pre-medical students from diverse backgrounds.
- For more information on the OUCOM COE, please go to: <http://www.oucom.ohiou.edu/coe-mm>.

### The Effect of Funding Cuts . . .

If funding for the Summer Scholars program is lost, many minority students would lose the opportunity to get additional preparation and gain additional skills needed for medical school.

The OUCOM COE program is the only COE program offered at an osteopathic medical school. The program’s mission is to help produce a culturally and ethically diverse physician workforce. Without this program, there would be fewer minority applicants to such schools, resulting in less diversity among the student body.