

Meet Mario Terán . . .

As a child, Mario Terán recalls spending his summer vacations in the doctor’s office. Living in Douglas, a small border town in southeastern Arizona, his family would have to travel to Tucson or Sierra Vista, just so that his grandparents could see a specialist. Once there, Mario would watch as his parents translated and fostered negotiations between his grandparents and their physicians. Their struggles with the health care system motivated Mario to pursue a career as a physician – a goal that didn’t always seem attainable to him, given where he grew up. With the help of the Arizona Hispanic Center of Excellence (AHCOE), however, Mario is well on his way to fulfilling his dream. Today, Mario is a member of the Class of 2008 at the University of Arizona, College of Medicine. There, he founded the Arizona chapter of the Latino Medical Student Association and currently serves as president. And to help resolve the difficulties his family encountered, he plans to practice in an underserved area like the one where he grew up.



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About the Program

- The AHCOE is a Center of Excellence (COE), which is authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. Together with the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), COEs function to increase the representation of minority and disadvantaged students in the health professions.
- As a Hispanic Center of Excellence, the AHCOE at the University of Arizona strives to increase the number of Hispanic physicians, to enhance the health research on the Hispanic population in the Southwest, and to improve the cultural competency of health care services for Hispanic communities.
- More information on the AHCOE program activities is available on the program website:
<http://www.azhcoe.medicine.arizona.edu/>

According to Mario . . .

Growing up in an underserved area, I personally experienced the health care disparities that people in these areas have. Seeing the difficulties that my grandparents and parents had with the health care system inspired me to take action and become a physician. But becoming a physician growing up where I did is a pipe dream. Of my graduating high school class, I can literally count with my hands how many people attended and graduated from a four year university.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have accomplished all that I have and not struggled where others have. However, I cannot take credit for this alone. I owe many of my achievements to the opportunities and encouragement given to me by programs like the AHCOE. Since entering medical school, the AHCOE has been pivotal in providing me with the support and opportunities to enhance my academic, professional, cultural, and personal development. They have been instrumental in further motivating me to dedicate my life to helping and serving the Latino and underserved populations. Future physicians in training will benefit from the encouragement provided by the invaluable programs supported by the AHCOE.



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