

MSM MD Student Collin Shumate Shares His Experience at the AMA Accelerating Change in Education (ACE) Conference with Drs. Anachebe and Elks

Dr. Elks and Dr. Anachebe,

On my flight home from the student-planned Health Equity and Community-Based Learning Conference, I reflected on my experience. I thought about what I learned and what I could take home to MSM to make the learning environment better, and how I may contribute to achieve health equity.

I cannot thank you, Drs. Anachebe and Elks, enough for nominating myself, Stephany Rush, and Tedra Thomas for participating in this conference. We all contributed equally to the development of our presentation and interactive case studies, and Stephany and myself were lucky enough to be able to travel to Sacramento, California to present our work, as well as learn from others from around the country.

We chose to highlight some of the skills we learned in our Community Health course in a session titled "Community As Your Patient," borrowed from our community health faculty. We also collaborated with Dr. Camara Jones on our presentation and included her definition of health equity in our slides. We briefly covered methods of conducting needs assessments and planning interventions before splitting our attendees into groups to discuss case studies that we wrote based on our personal experiences with community sites at Morehouse School of Medicine.

We had more than 50 attendees at our two sessions and they were highly engaged. Several complimented us on how well we presented and praised our community health curriculum as well as our delivery of take-home messages. We even had people contact us to ask for more information on how they can implement similar curricula at their institution. We were very happy with the outcome of our project and look forward to sharing our experience with others at the school.

We also enjoyed other great presentations from other schools in the consortium. One particularly riveting presentation (#Right2Rest: Call to Action) simulated a city council meeting with people debating the pros and cons of possible solutions for a homelessness crisis.

Thank you again for encouraging us to participate in this activity. I came away from this conference re-energized to fight for health equity.

Regards,

Collin Shumate

