

06 MONTREAL

STUDENT WIDENING PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (SWPC), HEALTH OUTREACH PROJECTS (HOP), EXPLORE! CAREERS IN HEALTH (EXPLORE!), MCGILL FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES, MCGILL FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

Project Title

To Enhance the Exposure and Recruitment of Underrepresented Students to Health Professional Programs at McGill University

Objectives

1 – To dismantle barriers of recruiting students from underrepresented communities to health professional education and training including Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Speech-Language Pathology, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. 2 – To develop effective recruitment and supporting strategies for high school students from rural, black, low socioeconomic status and small populations of getting into health professional programs. 3 – *The specific project organized by HOP* in collaboration with Student Widening Participation Committee (SWPC) aims to provide opportunities for motivated high school students to experience what it is like to be a healthcare professional student for a day. 4 – *The specific project under EXPLORE!* aims to promote careers in the health sciences to adolescents from underprivileged backgrounds, encouraging diversity and equity in healthcare by targeting high school students from underrepresented backgrounds (rural and students of low socioeconomic status in particular) and facilitating collaboration among future healthcare professionals.

Description

SWPC Projects

HOP organizes the “Health professional for a day” (HPFAD) in collaboration with the SWPC and also offers interactive presentations to elementary and high school students on careers in healthcare. The events are always free for participants. The number of participants has increased from 70 to 100 Quebec high school students within three years (2016-2018). The event has also expanded from 2day events to 4 full days, and for the first time, hosted 17 rural students last year. With the expansion of the event, the organizers were able to offer one full day dedicated to hosting Aboriginal youth, and the remaining days were focused on black students and learners from lower socio-economic backgrounds and rural communities. To maintain this success, the organizers plan to amplify their outreach efforts and interact with future healthcare professionals in more diverse ways. Ideally, they plan to not only host more of these interactive events but also send an interprofessional team of students from McGill’s health professional program to give HOP presentations to high schools, create multi-media such as videos to reach students who live in more distant areas including rural students. Additionally, they plan to develop a mentorship program to help engage and inspire young learners to pursue careers in healthcare. HOP will also establish a presence on social media in order to connect better with more students and establish long-term communication, such as through email newsletters.

EXPLORE! Projects

The entrance surveys within the faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and the faculty of Dentistry indicated that four communities: First Nations students, black students, individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds and learners from rural areas of Quebec are underrepresented in McGill’s health professional programs. EXPLORE! Careers in Health (ECH) is an award-winning annual 3day program offered to high school students interested in health sciences. ECH is organized by a team of over 50 student volunteers from Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Dentistry and Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at McGill. The ECH program is free for participants. Since its creation in 2009, more than 400 high-school students have participated the EXPLORE!

Budget allocation	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2018-2021
	\$7,977	\$35,015	\$35,015	\$78,007