



COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING

MEDICAL SPANISH

PATHWAY: **GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY**

Initiative Description

Medical Spanish is an outreach initiative geared towards increasing the number of Spanish-speaking clinicians and, subsequently, access to medical care for primarily Spanish speaking residents of Hampton Roads. Students in this Initiative organize and implement health fairs test to be interpreters at HOPES Clinica Esperanza and any other HOPES primary care or specialty clinic that serves the Spanish speaking patients.

Annual Student Activities

- Opportunities for international clinical service and language immersion training
- Health fairs, conversation groups, home dinners, and cultural activities

Community Outcomes/Results

- Regular community health screenings and education on diabetes, hypertension, nutrition, and elevated cholesterol
- Over 800 people screened last year
- Increased healthcare worker capacity to overcome language and cultural barriers to care
- Sustained medical home for the uninsured immigrant community of Hampton Roads in bilingual, student-run free Clinica Esperanza, currently serving over 200 patients

Facilitator

Alexandra Leader, MD, MPH
Marta Cox, MA

Partners

- Local & International NGOs, Non-Profits
- Religious Organizations
- Schools and Universities
- Local Health Systems

The Need

- Individuals of Hispanic origin are the fastest growing population in Hampton Roads (26.2% growth in VA since 2010)
- Individuals of Hispanic origin are often medically underserved due to language barriers between patient and provider, and many other social determinants of health

Preferred Qualifications

Fluent in Spanish