



Minority Health Professions Mentor Program (MHPMP)

2024 Impact Report

Our Story

Yes2Kollege Education Resources Inc. (Y2K) is a nonprofit organization founded in 2000 by Executive Director Sharon Chandler. Rooted in her experience as a mother of two first-generation college graduates, Ms. Chandler envisioned an organization dedicated to providing African American and other under-represented students of color and families with the educational tools and support systems necessary to thrive academically, professionally, and personally.

What began as a small-scale program focused on enrichment, life skills, and college readiness has become an impactful movement centered on educational equity and community empowerment. Through our Six Steps to Raising College Bound Kids program, we've supported over 5,000 BIPOC families in navigating the path to higher education.

That success laid the groundwork for our signature initiative, the Minority Health Professions Mentor Program (MHPMP), which will proudly celebrate 12 years of sustained impact and legacy in 2025.



“Our students are “exposed” to these role models – individuals who look like the students and may have grown up in similar neighborhoods like them – building relationships and sharing stories of their challenges and successes.

These mentorships are the foundation of our program, as they open our student’s eyes and give them the opportunity to dream, to realize that they too can become doctors.”

–Sharon Chandler, Yes2Kollege Founder and Executive Director



Percentage of students increased knowledge regarding health professional career pathways

360

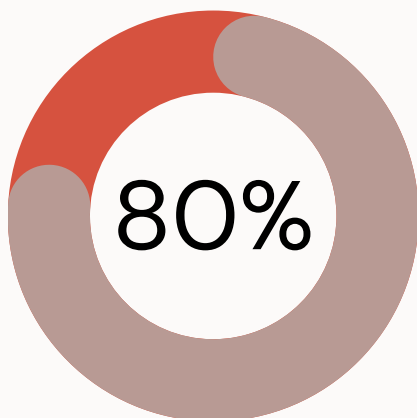
Job Shadows 2012–2024

150

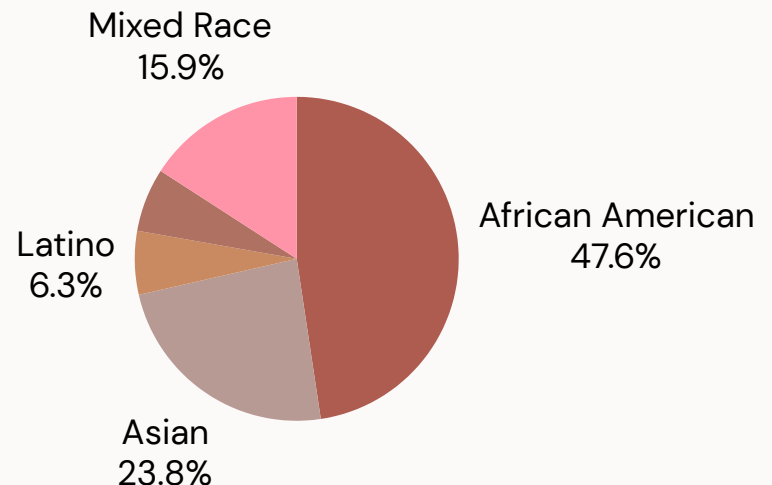
African American Health Professions Mentors 2012– 2024



Percentage of mentors who return to program annually



Program Participants by Ethnicity/Race



MHPMP

Highlights



Launched in 2012, the MHPMP is a free, year-round mentoring program that aims to expose African American youth in Sacramento to achievable careers in healthcare

Since its inception, the program has reached over 3,500 students through more than 360 site and virtual visits with African American health professionals across Northern California.

The heart of the MHPMP is grounded in authentic connection and representation. Our students are matched with mentors who resemble them and hail from similar communities and lived experiences.

They share real-life stories of challenges and triumphs—evidence that, despite the odds, careers in medicine, nursing, and allied health are attainable and within reach.

This visibility is crucial for African American youth; seeing themselves represented in care and leadership roles disrupts limiting narratives and affirms their right to dream and succeed.

The impact becomes generational as former mentees, now doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals, return to mentor, guiding today's students along a path they once traveled. MHPMP isn't just mentorship—a thriving, living legacy of transformation.

Rhana "Azalea" Menefee (she/ella)

I don't know if you remember me, but I participated in the Yes2Kollege Mentorship Program/Summer Job Shadowing Opportunity for several summers, first as a senior in high school and later during my first few years of college. The program was instrumental in shaping my career goals and opening my mind to the occupational possibilities for people of color, specifically young Black women like myself.

I graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana three years ago. I earned my B.A. in Spanish Literature and B.S. in Public Health Science. I am now working as a Director of Staff Development for the largest private inpatient psychiatric health provider in California and also as the Director of Community Engagement/Outreach for Solano HEALs, a birth equity initiative for Black mothers based out of Solano County that seeks to increase healthy birth outcomes through provider training and education, Black-centered doula training, and community awareness and collaboration.

I am a strong believer in giving back to the spaces, people, and organizations that contributed to my growth as a woman and professional. I would be honored if you are interested in having me as a mentor/panelist this year or next. Let me know how I can best serve you and the program.

Summer Job Shadow *Experiences*



One of my favorite shadowing experiences was during the nursing conference trip, mainly when we visited the occupational and physical therapy areas. This experience provided me with valuable insights into the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities as they prepare for their daily activities—the simulation exercises involved restricting our eyesight, which profoundly impacted my ability to engage in various tasks. Additionally, limitations were placed on our arms and back movement, further deepening my understanding of the obstacles encountered by those undergoing rehabilitation.

I sincerely thank Yes2kollege for orchestrating such enriching experiences for us participants. Looking ahead to next year's prospects, I eagerly anticipate applying once again while remaining hopeful that there will be expanded avenues for in-person engagement.

Liliana Mendez



Summer Job Shadow Experiences

I learned a lot from this program. The job shadows were well organized, and I enjoyed most of them. My favorite job shadow was working with Dr. Raymond, the chiropractor. During this job shadow, we learned how the spine works, where to look for a bone reset, and how to do it.

The chiropractor job shadow has made me interested in becoming a chiropractor, and I will do my best to become one. I've been slowly learning about becoming a chiropractor, and I am now taking an anatomy class in school because of this job shadow experience.

Jeffrey Floyd



Urban Cowgirl Ranch

The Urban Cowgirl Ranch was an awesome experience. The bus ride allowed those who came to bond and really get to know each other better. Staying overnight at the ranch was wonderful as well. This allowed those who had never been camping before to experience it with friends while learning. Even for those who had been camping before (me), it was fun to go to the ranch and bond with other people.

At the ranch, I learned quite a few things. I learned to trot on a horse, how to feed a horse, and that it's okay to take a break after finishing high school and figure out what you want to do. From this experience, I also learned that taking time for yourself and doing what you love most and that someone is always watching you and if you are doing the right thing, it might just be a chance for a future job or a program or a college...just anything that can help you out. I didn't know or realize most of the things I learned here.

It helped me choose another profession I want to learn more about and possibly enter. The Urban Cowgirl Ranch really intrigued and inspired me to learn more about horses and possibly own one. I would love to have a ranch, own different animals, and take care of them. The ranch trip was a big contributor to getting me into riding horses, and because of it, I am taking lessons.

Sofia Carter



Hear from Our Mentors



For over a decade, I have had the privilege of serving as a mentor in the Minority Health Professions Mentor Program (MHPMP). This role has allowed me to connect with students from diverse backgrounds and ages, sharing insights into the field of orthotics and prosthetics—a rewarding healthcare profession that often flies under the radar. I am deeply grateful to MHPMP for providing mentors like myself with the opportunity to contribute to our community and inspire future generations of healthcare professionals.

*Laduan Smedley, M.B.A-HA, CPO, President,
Co-Founder, Limb Care Foundation*

As a person of color it is critical to share what is possible for the next generation. Often times we don't pursue a dream because we don't think it is attainable. Being able to show these kids what potential options they have and also that there is not just one path but a plethora of paths to choose from is important to me.

*Dr. Anthony Rayman,
KeyStone Chiropractic*



Building Community Through Mentorship

At Yes2Kollege, mentorship is more than just a pathway to a profession—it's a tool for building community. Through MHPMP, we foster lasting, intergenerational connections that empower youth, uplift families, and bridge partnerships between the community and institutions.

With over 25 years of partnerships with churches, school districts, businesses, and grassroots organizations and more than 14 years of collaboration with academic institutions like:

- Sacramento Unified School District
- Elk Grove Unified School District
- Sacramento City College, School of Nursing
- Samuel Merritt University
- California State University Sacramento
- UC Davis Health
- UC Davis Betty Irene School of Nursing

We are creating a pipeline that leads to opportunity and reflects the community.



Sponsors

Kaiser Permanente	\$25,000
Sierra Health Foundation	\$185,000
Capitol City Black Nurses	\$500.00
UC Davis Betty Irene Moore	\$2500.00
School of Nursing	
UC Davis Medical	\$1500.00
South Sacramento Rotary Club	\$2000.00

2025 Sponsorship Opportunities

MHPMP Sponsorship Packet



Funding summary

\$10,000

Donations

\$210,000

Grants

\$6,500

Sponsorship

3500

2012 - 2024

Lives Transformed



The MHPMP's long-term impact is evident in the lives it influences and the systems it confronts and reinvents.

We are:

- Increasing Black and underrepresented representation in medicine, nursing, and health professions
- Strengthening leadership and mentorship pathways for youth and emerging professionals
- Addressing health disparities by preparing culturally informed healthcare leaders
- Connecting education, healthcare careers, and community wellness to build a more equitable future

MHPMP transforms lives—but more than that, it transforms systems, one empowered student at a time.

We thank you for your
ongoing support of
our program

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