

Abstract:

Minority and underserved populations are often, or stereotypically, seen as being unable to find achievement in white collar/professional occupations (medical doctor, engineering, business, law, et cetera) due to a lack of representation in or access to those professions. Mentorship that reaches these communities at an early age gives children of these communities the ability to relate to professionals and the ability to visualize themselves in those professions. Using the University of Colorado School of Medicine (CUSOM) and the Community Choirs of the Colorado Children's Chorale, outreach can be developed from a young age and give these children an insight that becoming a doctor is within their capabilities. CUSOM has a well-developed diversity outreach program for acceptance to their program (~50% minority acceptance, ~50% female acceptance), which allows for underserved and underrepresented populations to see that the goal of medical doctor is an achievable one.