INTRO
• Given the growing number of older adults, it is critical that future health care professionals are prepared to care for an aging population.
• Improvements in intergenerational communication and understanding may lead to improved care.
• COAST-IT, an interprofessional telecare-based program was developed to provide students the opportunity to improve their ability to communicate and connect with older adults.

METHODS
• Over 200 community-dwelling older adults were paired with students from PharmD, NP, Dental, and MD programs.
• Students made social phone calls every 1-2 weeks to their older adult partner (OAP) for at least 6 months.
• Cross-sectional surveys captured students’ attitudes and confidence in communicating with older adults.

RESULTS
• 186/200 students completed the pre and post survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ability to define ageism</th>
<th>74.05</th>
<th>80.43</th>
<th>0.045</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest in caring for older adults</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>35.47</td>
<td>0.093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stressed when talking to older adults</td>
<td>18.38</td>
<td>10.67</td>
<td>0.011</td>
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</tbody>
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Table 1: Change in knowledge of and attitudes about older adults

CONCLUSIONS
• Participation in the COAST-IT program by health professional students is associated with improved attitudes and confidence in communicating with older adults.
• The COAST-IT program provides students a way to practice building longitudinal relationships that foster improved attitudes towards and communication skills early in their training.

NEXT STEPS
• Future program study will include an evaluation of the impact that COAST-IT has had on loneliness and perceived social isolation among OAPs.
• Further evaluation will include students’ satisfaction with the program and fostering students’ interest in caring for older adults.