WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPACT THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE


Student Debt | Patient Care | Advocacy

Interprofessional collaboration has always been a personal passion for me. I’ve had the opportunity to do clinical rotations in hospitals that use a collaborative approach and I’ve seen the benefits. Interprofessional collaboration produces effective communication and better patient outcomes. The only way we will advance health care in the United States, is by working together.

Passion
I first met Tripp Hines, Vice President for the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), at the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) convention in Nashville, TN in 2014. After I was elected as NSNA’s President, Tripp sent me a congratulatory email and we started corresponding. On a conference call between NSNA and AMSA, I presented the idea of having an Interprofessional Lobby Day on Capitol Hill for student leaders of National Led Organizations in health care. The idea was well received and I started to reach out to other national presidents via email and social media. I began working on this project in October of 2014. By February of 2015, students from nursing, medicine, occupational therapy, physician’s assistants, and pharmacy were on board.

How it all began

Making History
On February 26, 2015, our interprofessional collaboration project made history. For the first time, national student leaders from NSNA (nursing), AMSA (medicine), AOTA (occupational therapy), SNPhA (pharmacy), and SAAAPA (physician’s assistants) came together in Washington D.C. to lobby for Student Debt and Title 7, in one united voice. We were well received in Washington as we discussed the current average student debt for each of our educational programs. We also advocated for interprofessional collaboration funding. We did 7 miles in
the snow and were able to attend 12 appointments at the following offices:

1. Senator Richard Burr
2. Senator Bob Corker
3. Senator Susan Collins
4. Congressman David E. Price
5. Senator Thom Tillis
6. Congressman Darrell Issa
7. Senator Tim Kaine
8. Senator Barbara Boxer
9. Senator Lamar Alexander
10. Senator Diane Feinstein
11. Congressman Scott Desjarlais
12. Senator Mark Warner

We offer many thanks to the National Student Nurses’ Association staff for making our hill visit appointments and to the offices listed above for making time to meet with us.

**Onward**

As the leaders of tomorrow, it is our professional and social responsibility to advocate for the future of health care. Reports from the Institute of Medicine and the National Institutes for Health show the importance of Interprofessional Collaboration and teamwork in the health care setting. With a collaborative approach, we can embrace diversity and effective communication. We encourage students in health care to get involved and make a difference!

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3081249/