

THE MOCK-EMERGENCY LEARNING CAFÉ



On July 20th between 5:30 PM-7:30 PM at the Emory School of Medicine, Whitehead Biomedical Research Building Emory HCOP Pipeline and HealthPREP Students learned of the ongoing fight to find solutions for these problems and were also exposed to the foundation of what makes advocacy work and how they can apply the tools of advocacy to issues they are passionate about.

The Emory Mock-Emergency Café, moderated by Brandon Pledger layered issues such as advocacy, medically underserved communities, the closing of WellStar's Level 1 Trauma Center in Atlanta, and many other health-oriented problems facing Georgia. Students were presented this information from an interdisciplinary panel comprised of Georgia State Senator, Nan Orrock; Podiatrist, Dr. Adrienne Atkinson-Sneed; Executive Director of GSMA, Dr. Kimberly Williams; and Trauma Surgeon, Dr. Frank Jones. Later, faced with doctors, health professionals, and legislators, students were able to mingle and build future connections that will serve them for the remainder of their careers



The program panelists shared the ways in which they have advocated for patients in both legislative and non-legislative settings. During this program, Senator Nan Orrock spoke about young students who championed legislative changes that have come to fruition. Dr. Adrienne Atkinson-Sneed spoke of her fight to lower the number of amputations performed across the country through legislative advocacy and Dr. Kimberly Williams spoke of her advocacy for clean drinking water and air. Finally, Dr. Frank Jones spoke of alternate forms of advocacy wherein he uses his status to advocate for medical students.





This program was attended by a diverse set of students hailing from Morehouse, Emory, and PCOM, whose experience stretched from second-year undergraduate students to third-year medical students. Students were able to receive information concerning their careers years down the line and also concerning what may come in the next several months. Overall, more than 30 students were able to attend the program.

During the Mocktales portion of the program, students were able to share concerns about their futures and the future of healthcare. Many were concerned with health disparities such as high maternal mortality rates and access to quality healthcare. These concerns were addressed to the student's satisfaction which bolstered engagement. The Mocktales portion featured 10 unique individuals representing entities such as PCOM, Morehouse, Clayton State University, Kaiser Permanente, Kate Spade, and SPCC Atlanta AHEC and students were able to mix, mingle and drift between these esteemed professionals.



The program was considered an immense success by students and professionals alike. "I loved this workshop and how engaging it was. The speakers were insightful, informative, and engaging. I loved it," stated one student. "I really enjoyed the transparency and wisdom from the panel," another stated. This program presented unique challenges, but its success is indicative of the types of programs SPCC Atlanta AHEC will be able to produce in the future.

