



P4 Physician Pipeline Preparatory Program

Inspiring Teens Toward Medical Careers

Do you know a Springfield-area high school or junior high student who dreams of becoming a doctor? The Physician Pipeline Preparatory Program, or P⁴, gives young people a head start into medical careers and provides them with early mentors within the Springfield medical community. The after-school program is sponsored by SIU School of Medicine in partnership with Springfield Public Schools (SPS) and the Sangamon County Medical Society.

Students enter P⁴ when they are high school freshmen and continue through their senior year. This four-year experience familiarizes them with medical school coursework, admissions processes, test-taking skills, critical thinking and specialty training. The curriculum, developed by faculty and staff from the School of Medicine and SPS District 186, includes:

- special lectures
- physical skills-training
- job shadowing
- problem-based learning (PBL)
- laboratory aptitude
- research
- college-planning seminars
- supplemental instruction in college-level science, technology, engineering and math courses
- mentoring activities modeled after medical school education programs

SIU physicians and scientific research faculty, medical students and educators from District 186 lead the after-school sessions.

The Pipeline is open to all high school students from Springfield schools and its environs, both public and private. Participating students are chosen through a competitive process by a committee that includes SIU and District partners, as well as community representatives. Applications must reflect superior academic performance and attendance, a high level of motivation and sincere interest in becoming a physician. The committee also gives consideration to students with a disadvantaged socioeconomic background or the potential to become a first-generation college graduate.