

Local Pilot Program to Encourage Physician Career Choice – add 1

Fifteen high school freshmen will be selected this fall, through an admission process that begins in late August. Twelve will be selected from Springfield Public Schools and 3 from private/parochial schools that live within the SPS boundaries.

An admission packet from students who live within Springfield Public School boundaries must be submitted by September 25. The application will be available after August 24, 2009 from the Springfield Public Schools and posted on Web sites for both partners. It must include evidence of superior academic performance -- grades of A's in 60% of their 8th grade courses and attendance of 95%.

Two screeners will review applications and jointly recommend students for interviews. The following information will be included as part of the review –

- Extracurricular, volunteer or community service activities;
- Disadvantaged socioeconomic background;
- Ethnic minority (African American, Latino, American Indian or Native Alaskan), and;
- Potential first-generation college graduate.

The students recommended will be interviewed by 3-person teams comprised of staff from SIU, Springfield Schools and the community, which in turn will make recommendations to a 12-person Admissions Committee (also with representatives from SIU, Springfield Schools and the community). Students will be selected by late October.

Springfield Public Schools will monitor participants' grades, attendance and behavior. Students will continue in the program if they maintain a 3.0 or greater GPA. All students must be enrolled in a rigorous high school college-prep curriculum. Failure to maintain their GPA, disciplinary problems or other matters that impact a student's success in the program, will be handled by the P⁴ Admissions Committee.

Questions regarding the P⁴ curriculum should be directed to Dr. Wesley G. McNeese, Executive Assistant to the Dean for Diversity, Multicultural and Minority Affairs, SIU School of Medicine, 545-7334 or physicianpipeline@siumed.edu. Questions regarding the P⁴ application process should be directed to Donna Ferguson, Director of Special Projects, Springfield Public Schools, 525-3257 or physicianpipeline@springfield.k12.il.us. Materials will be posted after August 24, 2009 on the Web sites for the two partners – www.siumed.edu or www.springfield.k12.il.us.

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