



Springfield
Public Schools

NEWS



Southern
Illinois University
School of Medicine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 26, 2009

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Pilot Program to Encourage Physician Careers Taking Applications

Applications will be available next week for a pilot program to encourage local high school students interested in becoming physicians through a partnership between Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and the Springfield Public Schools (SPS). Called the Physician Pipeline Preparatory Program or P⁴, the program begins this fall and introduces 15 students with strong academic standing to the field of medicine.

Links for the application materials will be posted Monday, August 31, on the web sites of both partners -- www.springfield.k12.il.us/ or www.siumed.edu. The on-line packet includes an application to be completed and returned with three letters of recommendation, a personal statement and a summary of volunteer, school and community activities. The materials must include evidence of superior academic performance, high levels of motivation and a sincere interest in pursuing medical careers. The materials must be returned by 4:30 p.m. Friday, September 25, to the Springfield Public School offices, 1900 W. Monroe, Springfield.

Two voluntary informational meetings will be held for students and parents interested in learning more about the program --

- 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 1, at SIU School of Medicine, South Auditorium, 801 N. Rutledge (2nd floor). Park on the north side and enter through the side/north door; and
- 6 p.m. Thursday, September 3, at 1900 W. Monroe, Springfield Public Schools Board Room.

The P⁴ modules are set for this fall, Nov. 9-21, and next winter and summer, Feb. 8-20 and June 2010. On most days, sessions will be held after school for three hours and on Saturday mornings with some daytime class sessions possible on school holidays. The Saturday program will provide academic support and leadership training as well as sessions in math, science, written/oral communication, test-taking and verbal reasoning.

The curriculum for the pilot program is being developed by faculty and staff from both Springfield Schools and the SIU medical school. The P⁴ components for the after-school program include participation in medical school style curriculum; introduction to problem based learning (PBL); tours and shadowing, and interactions with current SIU School of Medicine students and faculty.

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Pilot Program to Encourage Physician Careers Taking Applications – add 1

Twelve students will be selected from SPS and three who live within the SPS boundaries but attend private/parochial schools.

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 three-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).

Interviews will be scheduled as applications are received and will be held Sept. 8 through Oct. 2. Notification of acceptance will be sent by Oct. 16. Students will need to confirm their participation by Oct. 27.

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*.

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