

Physician Pipeline Program Goes Virtual

Kaiser Permanente brings back Hippocrates Circle Program using virtual format.

Kaiser Permanente's Hippocrates Circle Program (HCP) strengthens the self-esteem of young people from under-represented communities and empowers them to pursue their goal to become a physician. Through collaboration with local school districts, medical schools, and Kaiser Permanente physicians, participants explore their interest in healthcare and connect with a physician-mentor to guide them on their path.



“The Hippocrates Circle Program means providing opportunity for students from under-represented backgrounds to envision themselves having careers in medicine,” said Dr. Raven Copeland, physician champion for the program. “The backbone of HCP is mentorship, and mentorship has been shown to be a beneficial relationship for not only the student mentees, but the mentors and our organization.”

The program is critically important to building a pipeline of healthcare professionals that reflect the communities they serve. According to the [Association of American Medical Colleges](#), only 5% of practicing physicians are Black/African-American and 5.8% are Hispanic.

Since 2008, Kaiser Permanente South Bay physicians have mentored over 720 middle school students. For the 2020-21 academic year, we have partnered with Los Angeles Unified School District to serve students attending Gompers Middle School in South Los Angeles and Carnegie, Curtiss, and Stephen White Middle Schools in Carson.

The HCP program kicked off on October 16, 2021, when 80 students, their parents and administrative school sponsors participated in a recruitment event hosted in partnership with Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Program. Actors engaged participants in activities to help them manage stress and foster resilience as they transition back into a new normal at schools.

Beginning in January 2022, students will participate in a series of events, including a hospital tour, mentorship luncheon, a tour of a medical school or a college/university, and a high school planning workshop. The program will conclude with a formal graduation dinner and ceremony.

For more information about our Hippocrates Circle and Educational Theatre Programs, check out the web sites below:

[Hippocrates Circle | Kaiser Permanente Southern California](#)

[Educational Theatre | Kaiser Permanente](#)