

Student Liaison to the Latino Medical Student Association 2023 Annual Report

Liaison to the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA)

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Class of 2024

Purpose & Scope of Work

Founded as the National Network of Latin American Medical Students (NNLAMS) in 1987, the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) is a non-profit organization with the goal of unifying all Latino medical students into one organization, actively promoting recruitment and retention of Latino students at all training levels, educating medical students on Latino health issues, and advocating for the rights of Latinos in health care. Throughout the years, LMSA has successfully provided leadership opportunities for Latinos and promoted volunteerism in the Latino community. The mission of LMSA is to unite and empower medical students through service, mentorship, and education to advocate for the health of the Latino community.

The liaison is a national Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) board member responsible for facilitating effective communication with the LMSA VP of Communications. The primary objective is disseminating crucial information regarding AAFP events, such as the National Conference and available scholarship opportunities. This communication aims to enhance awareness and accessibility, enabling a more significant number of students to attend the National Conference affordably. Additionally, the liaison plays a pivotal role in organizing and collaborating on events that actively promote and encourage student engagement in the AAFP and LMSA, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for student participation.

2023 AAFP National Conference

- Collaborate closely with the LMSA VP of Communications to effectively promote the AAFP National Conference and associated scholarships through the national LMSA newsletter and official LMSA Instagram page.
- Co-plan an advocacy workshop with a colleague, which will be delivered as one of the sessions at the FMIG Leadership Summit. The workshop will empower attendees with essential advocacy skills and knowledge, helping them make a positive impact within family medicine.

- Organize a URIM workshop during the AAFP National Conference, focusing on a topic that will be determined soon. This workshop aims to address the unique challenges and opportunities faced by URIM attendees. By providing a supportive and inclusive environment, the workshop will foster meaningful discussions and provide strategies to increase the representation and success of URIM individuals in family medicine.

2023 Latino Medical Student Association National Conference (upcoming in September)

- Provide programming that effectively emphasizes the importance of increasing Latino students' representation in medicine, particularly in family medicine.
- Implement strategies to raise awareness and encourage participation in the various programs offered by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) among medical students.
- Actively engage with students, both individually and at the AAFP booth in the exhibit hall, to promote the benefits of AAFP membership and enroll a substantial number of students as new AAFP members.
- Organize a panel discussion on a topic relevant to the target audience to foster meaningful dialogue.

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving

As a liaison between the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA), I have gained invaluable insights and experiences that have enhanced my understanding of the intersection between medicine, diversity, and advocacy. Through my role, I have learned the importance of effective communication and collaboration in promoting AAFP events and opportunities to the LMSA community. In addition, I have learned how to develop engaging workshops that empower medical students with valuable knowledge and skills, fostering their growth as future leaders in the field. Overall, my experience as a liaison between AAFP and LMSA has given me a deeper understanding of the importance of collaboration, effective communication, and advocacy in promoting diversity and inclusivity within family medicine and medicine as a whole.

Note: This report was prepared by the resident or student representative(s) listed and includes their account(s) of the business conducted during their term. This is not an official record of business proceedings from the AAFP or any other entity. To find out more about the business of the AAFP, its congresses, commissions, and current policies, visit aafp.org.