



Latino Medical Student Association Student Liaison 2020 Annual Report

STUDENT LIAISON TO THE LATINO MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION (LMSA)

Student

Deanna Gonzalez
The University of New Mexico School of Medicine
Albuquerque, NM
Class of 2021

It has been an incredible honor to serve as this year's AAFP National Liaison to the Latino Medical Student Association. I look forward to continuing my leadership role for both organizations until the end of 2020. As the AAFP FMIG to LMSA Liaison, my primary goal is to be an approachable point of contact and to help both organizations accomplish common goals.

Purpose & Scope of Work

The AAFP recognized the need to establish a relationship and collaborate with the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) at the national level, as it is a growing organization with shared goals to the AAFP. An LMSA representative attended the COE meeting and discussed goals and direction of this partnership in February 2017. A memorandum of understanding between AAFP and LMSA was reached and this position was created. Both organizations mutually agreed upon eligibility criteria and selection process. However, it is important to note that AAFP is more heavily involved with the Liaison student, with much more participation in AAFP meetings, discussions, and events.

The purpose of this partnership has been to work collaboratively towards the main goal of increasing workforce diversity in primary care, especially in Family Medicine. To do so, this position has aimed to identify and act on opportunities for increasing medical student awareness and affinity for primary care careers, especially as it relates to serving the underserved and underrepresented communities.

Activities & Achievements

Defining responsibilities: The MOU established between the two organizations was discussed with the President of LMSA, the Liaison, and Ashley Bentley in June 2020. The position's term was agreed to be served between January 1st – December 31st. The role responsibilities include collaborating with both organizations to help identify priorities, common goals, and the ways that both organizations can support each other in efforts. The role is fairly new (established in 2017) and continues to evolve over the years, further defining the responsibilities of the position. I communicated with and worked with the LMSA National President, Vice President of External Affairs, the Southwest Co-Directors, and AAFP Student Interest staff, and my fellow AAFP Student Leaders to plan and executive events including LMSA National Conference, AAFP National Conference, and LMSA National Policy Summit.

Leadership: The role began with attending the National Leadership Orientation Training at AAFP Headquarters, where I met with the AAFP FMIG Regional Coordinators and SNMA Liaison. This

training allows the liaison to be a part of the student leadership team. I attended monthly “hang out” calls where we discussed goals, events, and planning of National Conference. Communication involved emails, phone calls, and video sessions as needed. LMSA expressed interest in AAFP recruitment of physicians for the LMSA National Conference Primary Care panel; however, designation programming was not made available to the AAFP for the LMSA National Conference as it had been in previous years.

Increasing Family Medicine awareness at LMSA events: I attended the LMSA National Conference and was able to meet and network with LMSA national leaders. I had the opportunity to help with the AAFP exhibitor hall table and talk to students about my role, resources that AAFP has to offer them, and the wide scope of family medicine. I also had the chance to work with LMSA leaders with an interest in family medicine, and we discussed all the great career opportunities found within family medicine and the positive learning environment that family medicine faculty create for students.

AAFP National Conference: My responsibilities included planning and coordinating different events for the National Conference. Many of my efforts were focused on executing an FMIG leadership event regarding the importance of collaboration, as well as the Diversity Workshop for students and residents.

Social Media and communications: As part of my role, I have been actively involved in social media and our internal student and leader’s portal on the AAFP website. I also used the platform “Slack” to communicate with LMSA members about scholarship opportunities and registration for AAFP National Conference. Our goal is to promote LMSA and AAFP events, news related to Family Medicine and Latino health, policy, and advocacy.

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving on both National committees:

AAFP transition/turnover of student leadership positions happens in January whereas turnover for student leadership in LMSA happens in March. This makes it difficult to establish a strong line of communication and relationship with LMSA national leaders. Suggestions for improvement would include a session when transition with the previous and new liaison to go through the responsibilities of the role and how to best establish meaningful communication between LMSA and AAFP leaders. In 2020, LMSA created an email address for the Liaison with the @lmsa.net. This may be helpful to streamlining communication efforts in addition to adding the liaison to the list serve for LMSA National leadership updates. LMSA Liaison is to be included in LMSA monthly leadership calls and the annual LMSA leadership retreat. This was established in 2020 with the revised MOU.

It has been an honor to serve as the National AAFP to LMSA Liaison. I have enjoyed working with the FMIG network leaders, AAFP staff, and LMSA national student leaders. I am excited to continue working with this wonderful group of individuals in both organizations. The role has allowed to me experience a true sense of belonging in medicine as an underrepresented student with support from two powerful national organizations. The role has facilitated professional development, promoted my interpersonal skills and my ability to collaborate and network with strong leaders that exist within medicine. This role has led to my developing of leadership skills, team building skills, and my ability to use my voice to represent the minority students in medicine.

My biggest accomplishment in this role has been self-growth. I have acquired great knowledge of how national organizations work, improved my communication skills, and collaborated with diverse leaders to organize successful events. I have no doubts that serving in this position has made me a stronger leader, a better team player, and a fiercer advocate for my patients. I look forward to promoting student awareness of the joys of choosing a career in family medicine.

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.

