

Meeting the Needs of Our Communities, the CVS Health Spanish Pathway Program

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Objective

The mission of Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy (RUCOP) is to prepare students to become competent, caring, and ethical pharmacists and to provide patient-centered care, while addressing the pharmacy-related needs of our community. Throughout the United States there is a shortage of Spanish-speaking pharmacists that can meet the needs of the growing Hispanic/Latino population. This is especially true in the communities surrounding both of our campuses (Henderson, NV and South Jordan, UT) where there is both a significant Hispanic/Latino population and a demand for Spanish speaking pharmacists.

Hispanic Demographics of RUCOP Campus Communities

Outcome	% of Utah population ¹	% of Nevada population ²
Population	14.0	29.2
Poverty	17.2	
No health insurance coverage	35.7	34.2
Unable to access health care due to cost	20.0	80.2
No primary care provider	42.9	47.5

Through a grant from CVS Health, RUCOP has provided the CVS Health Spanish Pathway Program (SPP) that is committed to closing the gap by increasing the number of qualified Spanish-speaking pharmacy talent in our Hispanic/Latino communities. Our objectives include:

1. Introduce Hispanic and bilingual students to pharmacy careers
2. Recruit and retain Hispanic and bilingual students to RUHS, by offering mentorship, education, and leadership development opportunities
3. Prepare students to serve the healthcare needs of Hispanic communities by pairing them with local community pharmacies in Hispanic communities.

Methods

Since 2018, RUCOP has partnered with CVS Health to introduce Spanish-speaking students to pharmacy careers and recruit and retain these students. Students selected for the SPP are placed at predominately Spanish-speaking CVS Health pharmacies for their introductory pharmacy practice experiences and receive special opportunities to network with local, regional, and national CVS Health leaders. The SPP offers students opportunities in leadership and self-development with coaching from SPP faculty members.

Year-round SPP Activities

August

1. Introduce SPP at Orientation Luncheon
2. Open application cycle

December

1. Launch Canopy
2. Solicit nominations for chief-elect

February - May

1. Execute annual projects and report results
2. Award program scholarships
3. End of the year celebration
4. Final IPPE reflections
5. IPPE "Thank You Letters"

Additional activities: Student advising sessions | Community outreach events with Movimiento Estudiantil Roseman (MER) student organization | Social and career events with CVS Health | Complete Canopy (online medical Spanish learning platform) | Chief and chief-elect assist with quarterly reports | Quarterly review with CVS Health

September

1. Interview and select students
2. Secure CVS Health IPPE sites
3. Host initial business & social event

January

1. Host "Get Together" business and social event
2. Announce the new Chief-Elect
3. Launch annual projects
4. Student midyear IPPE reflections

Results

From Spring 2018 to 2022, the CVS Health Spanish Pathway Program has had the following successes.



Conclusions

Through the SPP, RUCOP is meeting the needs of our communities by graduating Spanish-speaking pharmacists who work in our community pharmacies. The SPP has also served as a recruiting tool to attract Hispanic and bilingual students into the field of pharmacy. CVS Health has graciously renewed the grant for 2022-23 so that these efforts can continue to impact our communities.



Conflicts of Interest and Financial Disclosures: The CVS Health Spanish Pathways Program at RUHS has been graciously supported by a grant from CVS Health. References: 1. Office of Health Disparities (2021). Utah Health Status by Race and Ethnicity 2021. Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Health. 2. Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, (2019) Nevada State Health Needs Assessment.