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## PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2020 ONLINE EVE AND GENE BLACK SUMMER MEDICAL CAREER PROGRAM SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

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- ❖ I left the program struck by how eager each speaker was, not only to educate us and to help us in our journeys, but to hear from us directly about our experiences and hopes for the future.
- ❖ While there were a few specific experiences that particularly moved me, there were several overarching lessons that this program has taught me. First, I was moved to hear about all the different pathways of every doctor. They all had such different lives and experiences that led them to where they are today. From hearing all these stories, I know now that there isn't just one way to become a doctor. There are so many ways that one can accomplish their goals. The important thing is that if you work hard and stay on task, then you will get somewhere.
- ❖ However, through numerous first-hand accounts in the program lectures, I've learned that everyone adventures into healthcare careers from a unique path, and I'm comforted by the flexibility I have to find my own path organically. Further, I've learned that the most important qualities of a doctor are not quantitative (MCATs, GPAs, etc.) Empathy and humanity make medicine.
- ❖ Following every Zoom meeting, I would eagerly tell my friends – over video calls – about the medical topics I had learned that day, then repeat it to my parents during dinner.
- ❖ Every single one of these people, regardless of their specialty, revealed their passion and investment in their future and in *me* as a person with the potential to succeed.
- ❖ Despite the fact that this program was online, I felt that I gained more knowledge and insight than I could have ever asked for. Being able to seek advice from a group of people already in the field you are passionate about is very rare and truly a unique experience.
- ❖ If there is only one piece of advice I can take away from this program, it's that it is never too early to get a mentor. Nearly all the speakers that participated in this program stressed the importance of finding a good mentor and establishing meaningful relationships with them.
- ❖ I deeply admire the numerous healthcare professionals who dedicated themselves to welcoming 60 wide-eyed, prospecting young adults into the world of pediatrics. My admiration is rooted in gratitude toward those who made it imperative to recognize the epitome of medicine -- that is not simply a profession but rather a lifelong commitment to uphold humanity and compassion, to not only do no further harm but to also facilitate healing.
- ❖ Listening to personal journeys, inspirational patient stories, and daily life in health care was extremely powerful to me as a student with a passion for medicine. Listening intently to over sixty medical professionals describe their lives was breathtaking. Each one so unique, yet all so fulfilling. Not a single guest speaker took the same journey to get where they are today. Each pediatrician had their own stories and their own journey while arriving at their current career destination.
- ❖ Being a part of the Eve & Gene Medical Summer Program was such an honorable experience for me. Every person who volunteered for the program has such an inspiring story, and their compassion for people around them truly shows what a person in healthcare should have. They are great examples of what it looks like to have a career in the medical field. I will never forget the amount of joy I had during those four weeks. One day, I hope to be one of those very speakers.
- ❖ This thought really shifted my perspective of how to view the medical journey, a steep and long mountain waiting to be climbed. I realized that you might as well do something that you really love, something that you're really passionate about. You only have one life and you are going to grow up so you should do something that you really care about, something that you look forward to doing every morning when you wake up. I look forward to a life filled with learning, a life where I can show help ease the pain of those in harm and can show compassion and love to people, in whichever career I strive to go into.