The students of The Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (COMP) have always assumed a great deal of pride within the Medical Education Community. These are students who have outshined the pack and made it into the distinguished few who can say “I am a D.O. student.” That statement arises from years of hard work and dedication, but is also comes with a great deal of help and support from parents, teachers and the communities in which our students have originated from.

Western University of Health Sciences, COMP students have found their sense of community by providing health care services throughout the city of Pomona. Our students reach out not only to provide medical assistance but are now reaching out to help and support other academic institutions within the community. It is now time for our students to answer a community call for educational help. Many elementary students in Western University’s surrounding area have been significantly affected by the education budget cuts and increasing class sizes.

Madison Elementary, being one of the aforementioned institutions, has seen a thirty point decrease (from 736-706) in their Academic Performance Index (API) in the past year alone. Madison’s students are struggling to maintain basic reading skills, but many have also fallen behind with competency levels one to two grade levels below their own, challenging teachers to balance students who have managed to maintain grade appropriate reading levels and those who require substantially more instruction.

COMP’s students are offering their time as a remedy to this community wide problem. Students have been asked to donate 40 minutes a week to tutor first to third grade students. The hope for the program is that with the extra assistance and support, Madison’s students will not just rise to the proper reading proficiencies, but that they will find a love for literature and academics.

The application of this program will not only benefit the students of Madison Elementary, but will also provide a better sense of service learning for COMP’s students. We hope that by impacting the community in a positive way Madison’s students may one day “pay it forward”, potentially becoming the next generation of Western University of Health Sciences D.O. students.