

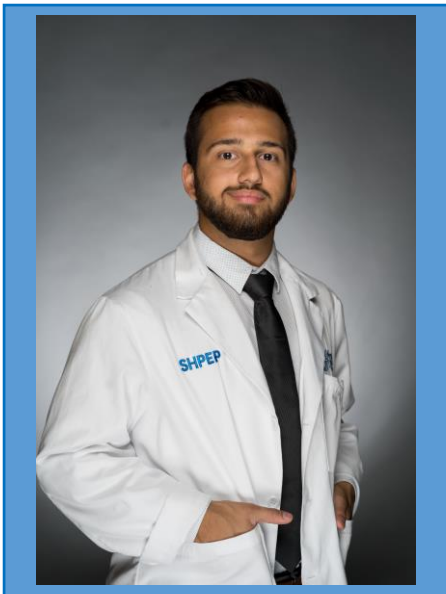


**Western  
University**  
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

**Summer Health Professions Education Program  
2019**

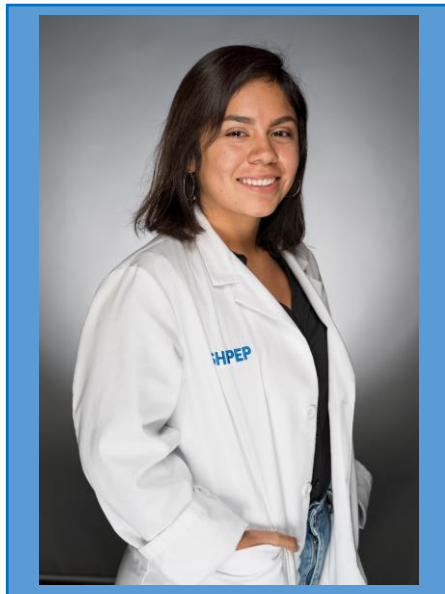


Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



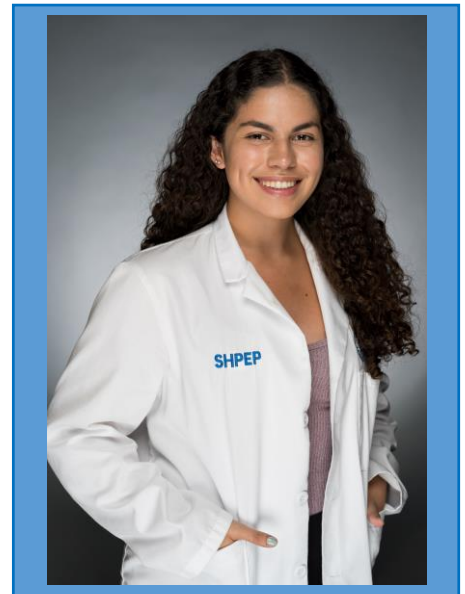
**Afaq Barakzai**  
**COMP**  
**George Mason University**

Coming into SHPEP, I was unsure about my career aspirations. Thanks to the curriculum, faculty, and my peers, I have narrowed down my interests. On top of this, I made many new lifelong friends and have explored the beautiful parts of California!



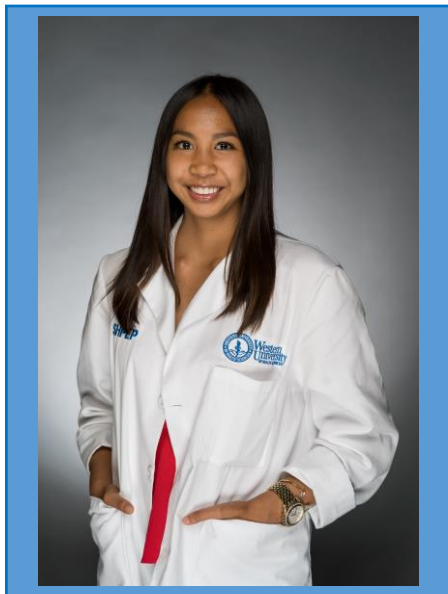
**Aileen Mendoza**  
**COMP**  
**Cal State San Bernardino**

SHPEP was a very enriching experience, not only were the faculty incredibly amazing people but my fellow scholars were also all very welcoming people. I will always carry the memories I've made with my friends here close to my heart.



**Alexandra (Lexie) Carpenter**  
**COMP**  
**UCLA**

SHPEP has given me friends from all over the country and the world. My arm is permanently scarred from volleyball and water polo, and I can never trust communal fridges again. But I miss y'all already. When's the reunion tho?



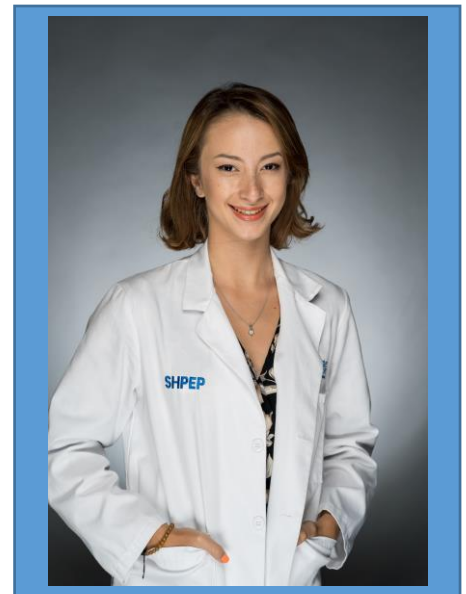
**Alexis De Guzman**  
**COMP**  
**Fullerton College**

Thank you to SHPEP for blessing me with this incredible opportunity to work with remarkable individuals from diverse backgrounds. Time flew by as wonderful memories were created with what started as strangers and ended up as a family.



**Alexis Garofalo**  
**COMP**  
**Montclair State University**

SHPEP has been an unforgettable experience. I have learned so much and met so many kind individuals from all over the U.S. I'm positive that our cohort will be successful in our future endeavors!



**Alondra Gonzalez**  
**COMP**  
**University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus**

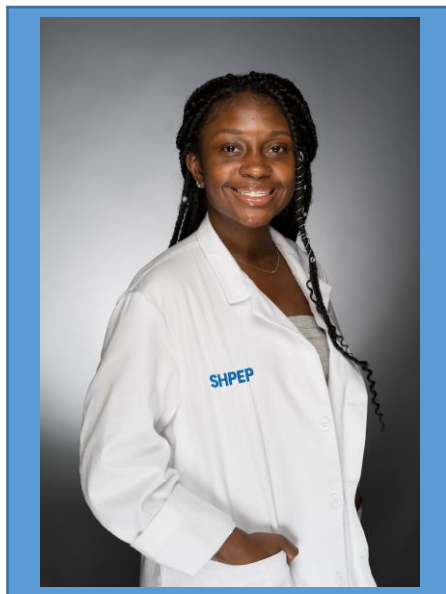
SHPEP has given me enrichment opportunities. I am grateful for all the friends I have made here and am excited to see all of them become health care providers.





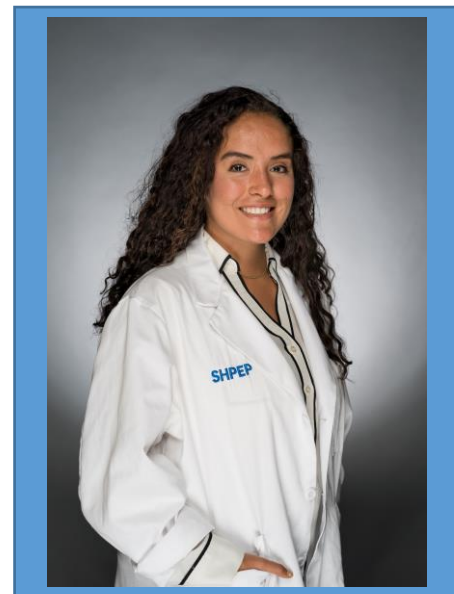
**Ambriana (Amber) Sykes**  
**Dental**  
**Lamar University**

SHPEP exceeded my expectations and has confirmed my desire to pursue dentistry. I am thankful for the overall experience and exposure to people from different backgrounds.



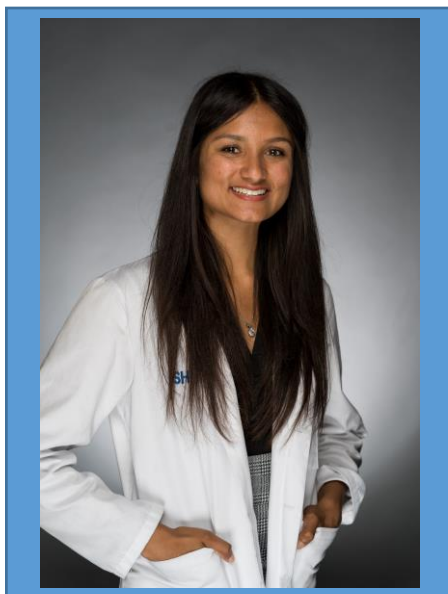
**Amethyst Hall**  
**Dental**  
**Western Michigan University**

I appreciate the opportunity to meet other students interested in health care careers and have similar experiences and backgrounds to mine. It has shown me cities experience similar issues with their health care systems.



**Ana Mort**  
**COMP**  
**Bellarmine University**

I loved being surrounded by so many different languages and cultures. Staying up late and going to LA with everyone was a lot of fun. (:



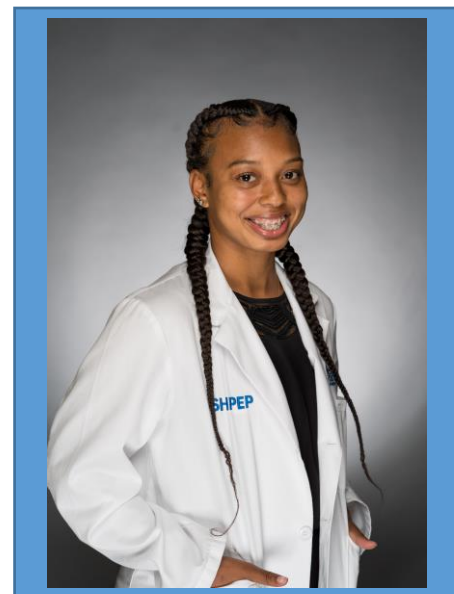
**Anjli Patel**  
**Optometry**  
**Nova Southeastern University**

I'm so thankful for this experience and all the friends I have made.



**Anthony Chavarria-Garcia**  
**COMP**  
**UC Riverside**

Because of SHPEP, I was able to not only make 79 friends but finally make connections into the medical field, find out about ways to be a competitive applicant for medical school, and realize that I can handle a rigorous course load.



**Anyéla Saa**  
**COMP**  
**Jackson State University**

SHPEP has made me confident in deciding to pursue a career in medicine. I really enjoyed being surrounded by other aspiring students with an interest in different health professions. I am grateful for this once in a lifetime learning experience!



**Athena Chen**  
**Optometry**  
**Carnegie Mellon University**

I was able to meet like-minded people from around the country who are equally as passionate about healthcare as I am. I had hands on experience that I can't experience elsewhere which allowed me to be confident in pursuing optometry as a profession.



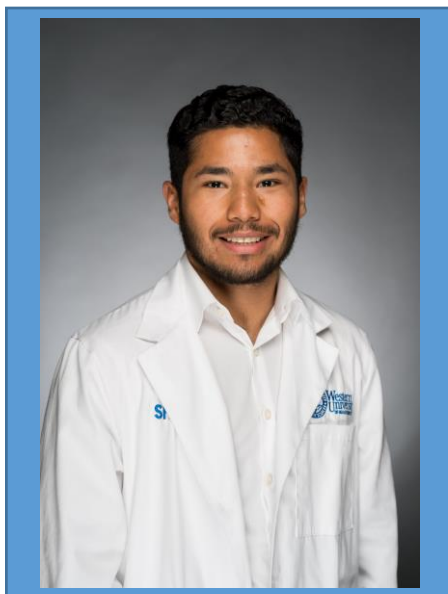
**Atif Osmani**  
**Dental**  
**The University of Chicago**

I came to this program looking for clarity about my future. I found out that I do want to be in the healthcare sector, but I still haven't found the perfect path for me. That's fine because I've learned that no one path is the same.



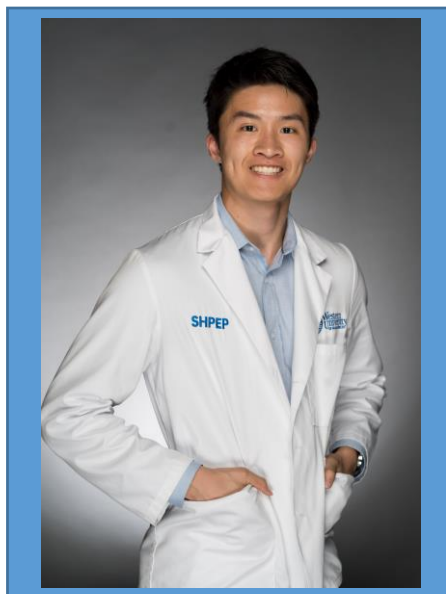
**Avery Pardue**  
**COMP**  
**North Carolina Agriculture & Technical State University**

My SHPEP experience was very informative and I enjoyed the exposure, and it was amazing to meet so many interesting people throughout the program.



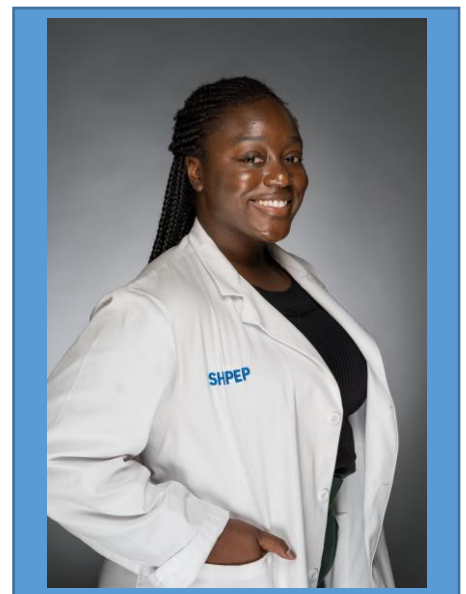
**Axel Cervantes**  
**Physical Therapy**  
**University of Nebraska at Omaha**

It was a great opportunity that gave me hands-on experience in the healthcare career I want to pursue. Everyone in SHPEP started as strangers, but we became family after a day of meeting each other.



**Benjamin Chung**  
**Dental**  
**The University of Texas at San Antonio**

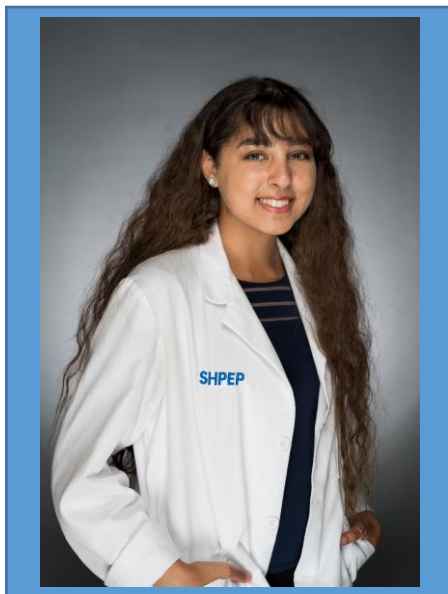
It's amazing how a group of random students from across the country became so close to each other in a short amount of time.



**Brittney Obonor**  
**COMP**  
**University of Southern California**

SHPEP has been one of the best experiences I have ever had. Not only have I learned so much about my future career and developed valuable skills, but I have also forged lasting friendships and memories with such great people.





**Cara Moussa**  
**COMP**  
**UC Riverside**

SHPEP has been such an eye opening experience for me. Being exposed to so many different people who come from such diverse backgrounds and experiences forced me to think about the people outside my bubble. SHPEP has been extremely worthwhile.



**Carlos Melchor**  
**COMP**  
**California State University, Chico**

Thanks to SHPEP, I have had the best summer of my life. Not only did this program provide me an intensive learning experience but it also gave me the opportunity to meet great people & make unforgettable memories In-N-Out of class. I love ya'll.



**Caroline Onwuzu**  
**Optometry**  
**University of Texas at Austin**

I've met so many people from different cultures around the world. I love my SHPEP fam. Every one of you volleyball playing, boba drinking, food stealing, water polo playing people will be missed!



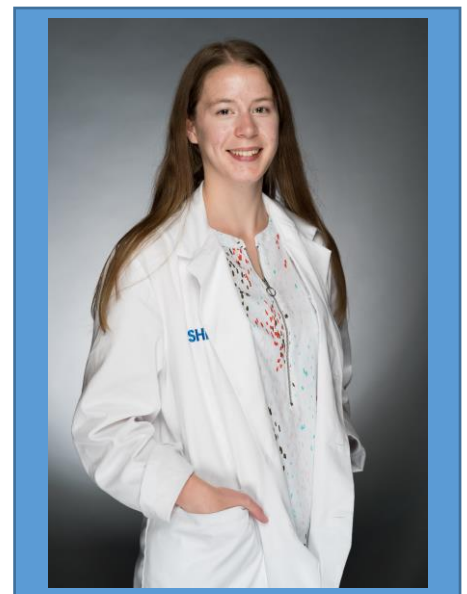
**Changho Kim**  
**Dental**  
**Union College**

SHPEP is definitely a life changing experience. Not only did it further improve my knowledge of dentistry but it also reaffirmed my decision of going to dental school. I have also met my future colleagues and lifelong friends in this program. Thank you.



**Cheyenne Taylor**  
**COMP**  
**Loyola Marymount University**

What an eye-opening experience that exceeded my expectations! I'm beyond grateful to have been a part of this program and have met the wonderful, smart, and actually hilarious people that I hope to stay in touch with especially during application season 🙏🙏



**Courtney Cummings**  
**Dental**  
**University of Hartford**

The best thing I have experienced here is meeting so many amazing people at WesternU. I have made more connections with SHPEP scholars, faculty, and dental students than I can count. Thank you to everyone who made my experience so amazing!



**Dariana Flores**  
**Dental**  
**Washington State University**

It was nice meeting people from different backgrounds and academic interests.



**Darius Graham**  
**COMP**  
**Haverford College**

SHPEP was one of the most interesting programs I have experienced in my life. I met some very extraordinary people and experienced healthcare in a way I never have before. This was a great precursor to my medical career that I will never forget!



**Diego Mendez**  
**COMP**  
**University of Puerto Rico: Mayaguez Campus**

Thank you all for making the SHPEP experience an amazing one. From all the "yokes" that were made to all the unforgettable nights, I will cherish every single memory and if anyone ever comes to PR you already know you'll have a personal tour guide.



**Dowha Karar**  
**COMP**  
**University of Richmond**

SHPEP has been an overall memorable experience. I'm walking away with not only great insight on what my future holds academically, but also meaningful friendships and bonds I will always be grateful and appreciative for.



**Edward Hernandez**  
**Dental**  
**Washington State University**

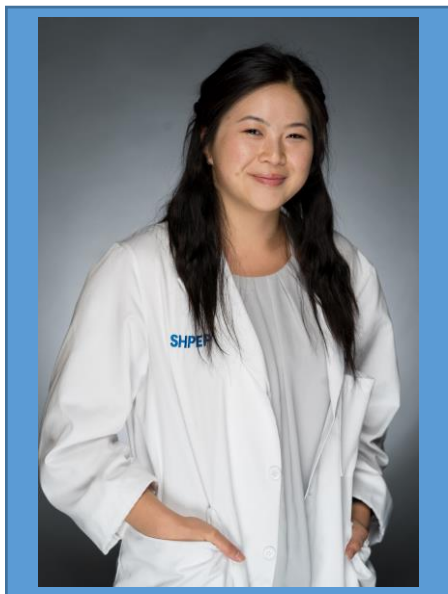
SHPEP was a great learning experience and a good way to meet many others in the same track.



**Emily Mendoza**  
**COMP**  
**Stanford University**

I am incredibly thankful for the honest and genuine conversations I had throughout the course of the program! I feel like I learned something special from everyone here, and I'm looking forward to seeing how we all thrive and grow in the future!





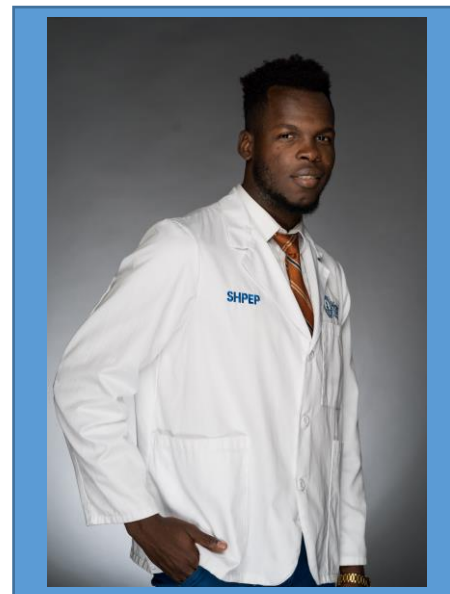
**Erica Chan**  
**COMP**  
**University of California, San Diego**

Everything was cool.



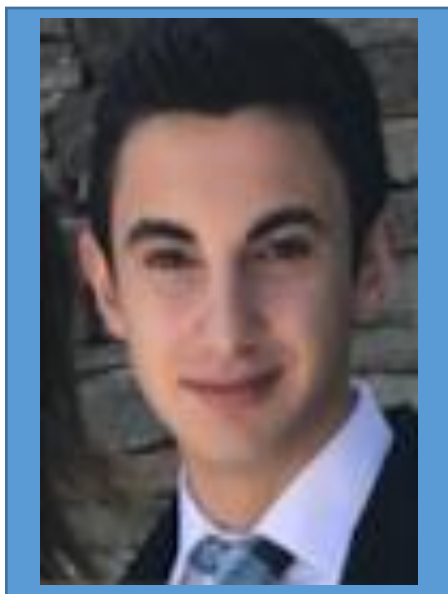
**Ezza Awais**  
**Optometry**  
**Stony Brook University**

We all walked into the room strangers- now look at us. When I look around I see faces that I have grown close to and friends who have made this summer a memorable one. So thank you to everyone who has made SHPEP an unforgettable experience, iykyk.



**Feguy Mangnan**  
**Physical Therapy**  
**St. Francis College**

My experience at SHPEP was great. I had the opportunity to make many new friends. I love the way we stayed bonded together and got to know each other. We shared food and played games together. After dinner we would go to play volleyball or soccer; even if nobody could stop me from scoring :) jokes lol.



**Gabriel Asmar**  
**Dental**  
**Assumption College**



**Gabriela Lopez**  
**COMP**  
**Arizona State University**

I'm forever indebted to everyone that helped make this experience possible. Thank you for the memories that I will always cherish, and I wish you all the very best in your future endeavors.



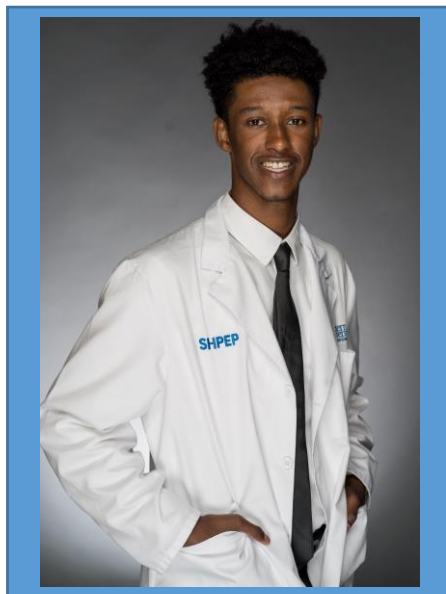
**Gizman Baraso**  
**COMP**  
**The University of Texas at Dallas**

WesternU SHPEP has allowed me to meet so many brilliant, talented, and motivated individuals and learn so much about the medical field. I am so thankful for the friendships that I have built here with amazing people that I know will last a lifetime.



**Hodan Ibrahim**  
**Dental**  
**University of Washington Seattle**

SHPEP was a great opportunity that reinforced my interest in becoming a dentist. The sim labs and shadowing opportunities made me more excited to pursue this career. The teachers, staff, and new friends I met made this experience more enjoyable.



**Hussam Abdelgadir**  
**Optometry**  
**The Ohio State University**

SHPEP has connected me with an amazing group of people in such a short amount of time. I am thankful that we got to learn together, grow together, and enjoy our time here with one another.



**Immanuel (Manny) Abbo**  
**Physical Therapy**  
**Whitworth University**

The people involved in this program have been genuine, fun, passionate, and of course intelligent. This combined with the many opportunities to bond, learn, and explore the California landscape made SHPEP a truly extraordinary experience.



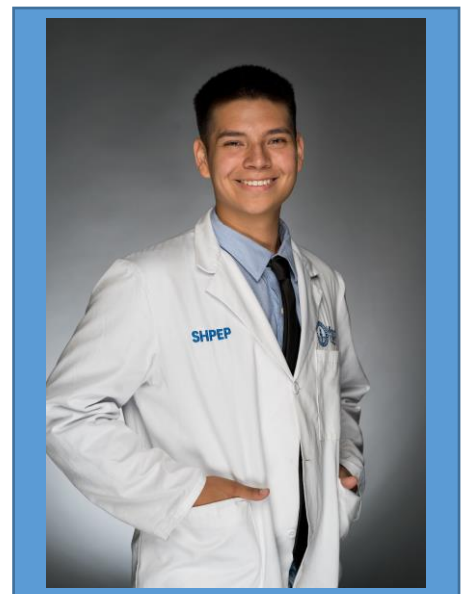
**Jalyne Brown**  
**Optometry**  
**Howard University**

I've had the best summer and I will miss truly everyone!!



**Janeth Mora-Martinez**  
**COMP**  
**Smith College**

I've met a lot of great people with whom I had an unforgettable experience.



**Jean-Carlos Gutierrez**  
**COMP**  
**Pacific Union College**

This experience was very unique in more ways than I expected it to be. The friendships and memories that were built over these past 6 weeks are unforgettable. Playing volleyball every day after dinner and staying up to play Uno were my favorite.





**Jennifer Cruz**  
**COMP**  
**UCLA**

This was an extraordinary experience in which I learned new things and met amazing people from across the country. I enjoyed getting to hear different stories and having the time to go for a run together or going out to eat.



**Jennifer Zhou**  
**Optometry**  
**University of California, Riverside**

I am so fortunate to be a part of this program and to be surrounded by like-minded individuals who want to better the healthcare field. This program has reaffirmed my passion and drive to be a healthcare professional.



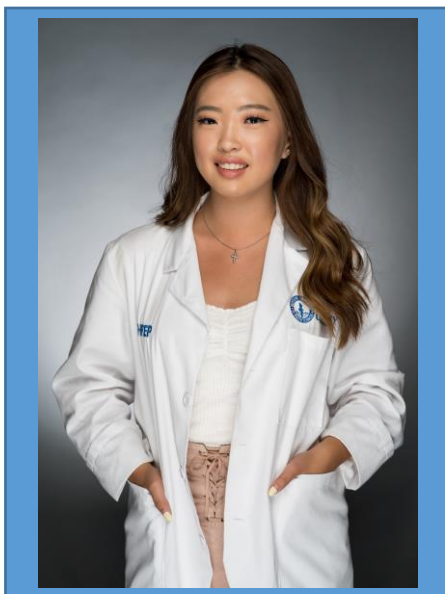
**Jessica Villalvazo**  
**Dental**  
**Cal State University San Bernardino**

The best part about SHPEP was meeting likeminded people from all different places. We all share so many memories we will never forget from lecture to hanging out outside of class. Shoutout to my asians #Asians+Jess and to the throwdown group ily guys



**Joanna Elhaj**  
**COMP**  
**University of Houston**

SHPEP has been the best experience by far. I have learned more about my profession, met new people, and had hands-on experience. I wish to see us become successful in achieving our goals and making our dream a reality. I hope we may one day reunite.



**Joanne Jeong**  
**Dental**  
**Tufts University**

"But wait, let me take a photo!" SHPEP has helped me to be open-minded while I OBSERVE my surroundings, FOCUS on it, CAPTURE the unforgettable moments from running away, and SAVE & REFLECT back on these valuable experiences and memories.



**Jose Aguilera**  
**Physical Therapy**  
**Whitworth University**

It's been a SHPEP ALPHA Summer!



**Kaitlyn Coronel**  
**COMP**  
**Cal Poly Pomona**

Learned a lot, met amazing people, and had a great experience!



**Kaleigh Whitfield**  
**COMP**  
**Howard University**

I am happy I was able to spend my 6 weeks in an amazing program, meet phenomenal people, and work towards my career goals.



**Katherine Xia**  
**Dental**  
**UC San Diego**

SHPEP was a great experience that allowed me to explore the dental field as well learn from esteemed faculty and students. The program was a once in a lifetime experience that cemented my interest in the health professions field.



**Kayla Jones**  
**Optometry**  
**Florida A&M University**

SHPEP has been one of the best opportunities I've experienced. I can't wait to apply the knowledge I've learned from SHPEP to my future career.



**Kenia Pochette**  
**COMP**  
**Juniata College**

The past weeks spent at SHPEP were an educational adventure. I learned that the future of healthcare is in the best hands possible. The friends and memories I've made, I will carry them with me always.



**Kimberly Imoh**  
**COMP**  
**Baylor University**

My experience at SHPEP is one I will forever cherish. Through this program, I have had the opportunity to meet a cohort of amazing individuals and make a lifetime of great memories!





**Lauren Granger**  
**COMP**  
**University of Oregon**

I'm very grateful for the people that SHPEP has allowed me to meet and the experiences that it gave me. I've made friends for a lifetime and learned so much about myself, along with healthcare, in these last 6 weeks.



**Leowell Cristobal**  
**Physical Therapy**  
**United States Air Force Academy**

Even though my time was cut short, I had an amazing SHPEP experience because of all you guys! Huge shout out to the WesternU faculty, the RPAs, my PT family, and to the entire WesternU SHPEP family! Truly grateful for this opportunity!



**Michaela Joseph**  
**Physical Therapy**  
**Ithaca College**

Thankful for this experience!!



**Miriam Akomeah**  
**COMP**  
**The Ohio State University**

I'll never forget this experience! Each and every one of you all made an impact in my life, so thank you. ❤️



**Nathaniel Osbourne**  
**Optometry**  
**Valencia College**

Met a lot of diverse and worldly people here. If this is the next generation of our doctors & saviors, I feel strangely concerned & safely secured. If you think you can tell who they are from a group pic, you've severely underestimated their depth.



**Omolara Akinfemiwa**  
**Dental**  
**Syracuse University**

This program solidified that dentistry is what I want to do with the rest of my life. This program also gave me that extra fire to pursue this profession. I'm forever grateful for this experience.



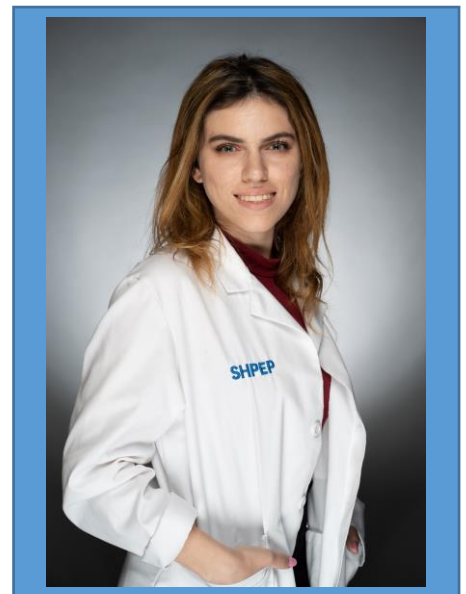
**Orlyne Megouang Fah**  
**Dental**  
**Loyola University Maryland**

My experience with SHPEP was very amazing because I met nice people. Also, I had the opportunity to go into the cadaver lab, which helped me have a better understanding about the human body.



**Pamela Okoli**  
**Physical Therapy**  
**University of Houston**

SHPEP was an amazing experience. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful peers, faculty, and health professionals. I know the memories and knowledge gained in this program will last me a lifetime.



**Rachel Saikaly**  
**COMP**  
**University of California, Santa Barbara**

This experience was very special. I met many people who shared the same dreams as me and I had a lot of fun.



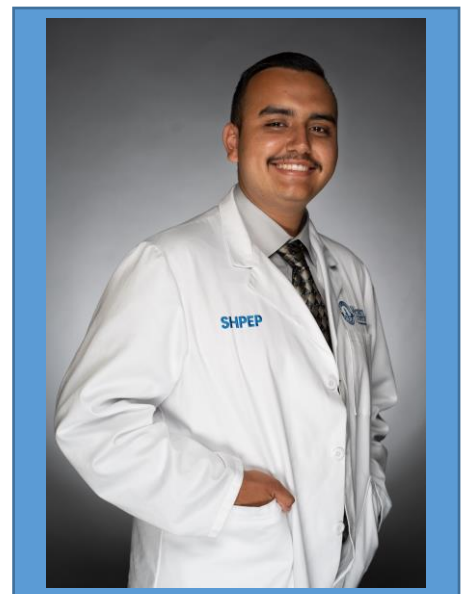
**Rebecca Lopez**  
**Dental**  
**Lehman College**

I am so honored to get to be a part of a program that supports future health professionals. It has been an exceptional experience.



**Ronald (Alex) Herrera**  
**COMP**  
**University of Nevada, Reno**

I loved getting to know new people, and learning more about different healthcare professions!



**Samuel Higuera**  
**COMP**  
**UC Riverside**

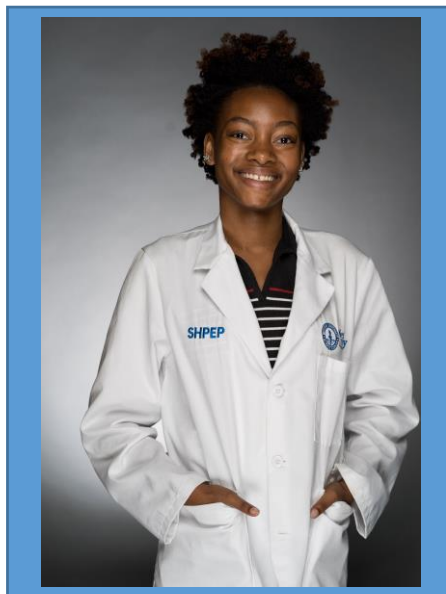
SHPEP has been an incredible experience that has strengthened my passion for medicine and has allowed me to meet some amazing people. I will cherish these memories forever :)





**Sara Cardona**  
**Physical Therapy**  
**University of South Florida**

I thank my cohort for opening up and inspiring me. With all the laughs, hardships, and adventures shared, my perspective on healthcare has been newly shaped. I will move forward in my career in hopes of making a difference for all populations.



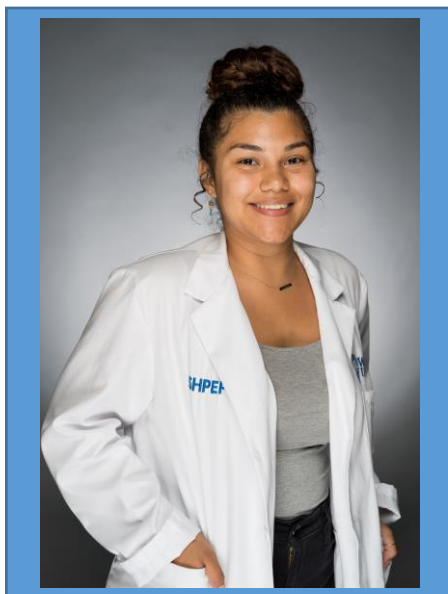
**Soleil Dancy-Taliaferro**  
**Physical Therapy**  
**Community College of Philadelphia**

Six weeks isn't long enough to study for the MCAT, DAT, GRE or OAT; but it's long enough to create a bond with amazing people. From the bottom of my heart, from one future doctor to another: thank you for being you. (P.S. If you're ever in Philly...) <3



**Stephanie Estrada**  
**COMP**  
**University of California, Riverside**

To say my times with you guys were amazing is truly an understatement. I am so fortunate to know that wherever I go in the country, I will have a compassionate friend, a doctor, a PA, a PT, an optometrist, and a dentist that I can count on. #SHPEP2019 ❤️



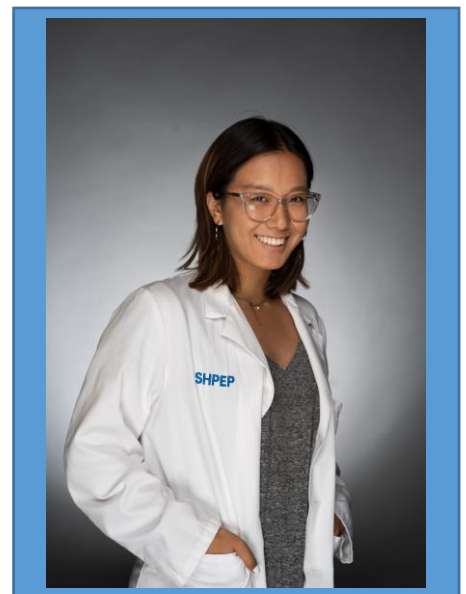
**Stephanie Montalvan**  
**COMP**  
**Delaware State University**

The SHPEP experience broadened my horizons in many ways from exceptional knowledge to amazing friendships!



**Taylor Geffre**  
**COMP**  
**South Dakota State University**

This experience has helped me grow so much as a person. I couldn't have asked for a better way to spend my summer or a better cohort to spend my summer with. I will be forever grateful to have been a part of this outstanding program!

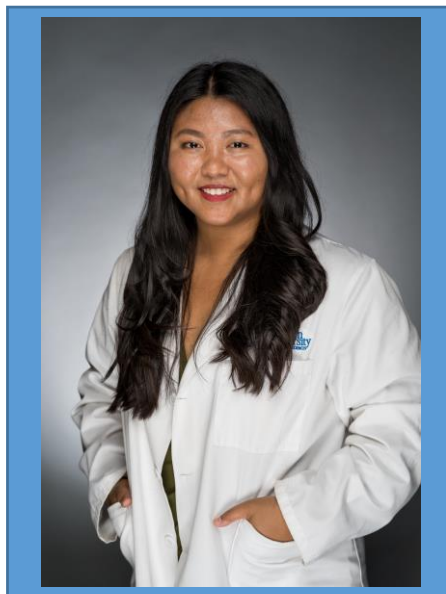


**Tenzin Seldoan Oshoe**  
**COMP**  
**Cornell University**

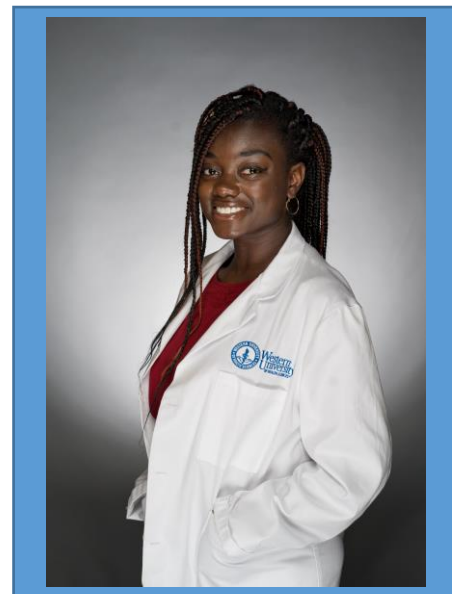
SHPEP was an unforgettable experience that impacted my life in many drastically different ways. I am thankful for the program and the valuable connections I have made with the WesternU faculty, as well as the bonds I have formed with the other SHPEPers.



**Thinh Tran**  
**Dental**  
**Orange Coast Community College**  
 SHPEP gave me the opportunity to grow as an individual and a future health professional.



**Tsewang Dolkar**  
**COMP**  
**University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
 One of the most memorable moments in SHPEP was when we did a surprise water balloon/gun attack on the unsuspecting SHPEPers. It was a great bonding experience to see people join in and grab the balloons and have fun with one another.



**Vanessa Coleman**  
**COMP**  
**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
 I am so blessed to have been able to participate in SHPEP. I made lifelong friends, tried new things, learned new concepts, networked with professionals, and gained knowledge that will last me a lifetime. Thank you SHPEP for this amazing opportunity.



**Victoria Osanyinpeju**  
**COMP**  
**Norco College**  
 SHPEP has been such a great way to spend my summer. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to meet so many people from all over and make so many new besties!



**Vincent Osekwe**  
**COMP**  
**Bowie State University**  
 SHPEP was a great experience. I got to meet wonderful people and learn more about what it means to be a doctor.



**Yousif Naser**  
**Dental**  
**Michigan State University**  
 This was a great experience and I am very happy to have shared an amazing time with very intelligent and caring people.





**Zhi Lin**  
**Dental**  
**University of Central Florida**

SHPEP really solidified my track for pre-dental. This program really helped me connect with like-minded people that share the same goals. I'm really grateful for the opportunity to learn more about my career and also make lifelong friends.



**Zoe Guerra**  
**Dental**  
**Rowan University**

My experience at SHPEP was beyond my expectations. The hours I was given to shadow and the networking opportunities gave me a clearer understanding of what to expect when I apply for dental school. I will remember this summer for the rest of my life.





## SHPEP Resident Peer Advisors (RPAs)



**Crystal Sin**  
**Optometry**  
**WesternU College of Optometry**

It was a pleasure to meet such amazing individuals this summer and I hope everyone made wonderful memories! I wish you all the best in your future endeavors! Always remember that you can do great things as long as you put your mind to it!



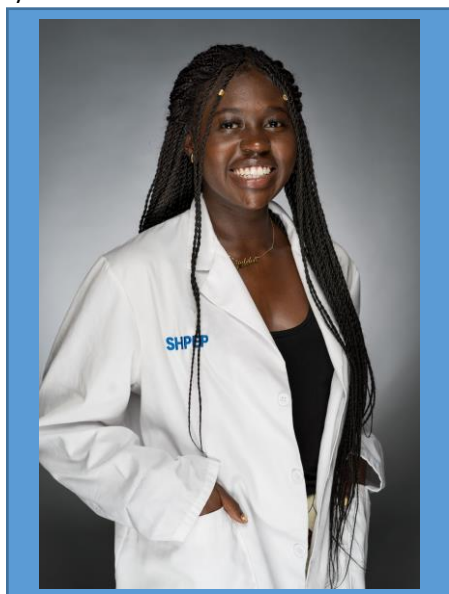
**Hector Cordero**  
**Dental**  
**CSU San Bernardino**

From morning curriculum to late night shenanigans, these past weeks have offered such a unique summer. I wish you all the best of luck and hope you all can recall all of those amazing memories that were made this summer!



**Jeffon Stubbs**  
**COMP**  
**Morgan State University**

It was one of the most rewarding experiences to impact and influence others through my experience from SHPEP 2018. It was a pleasure to meet and interact with a cohort of such unique and focused individuals. Also, I had the best colleagues ever!



**Jubilee Ahazie**  
**COMP**  
**THEE University of Southern California**

Being an RPA was such a rewarding experience. I enjoyed dancing in the afternoon, playing volleyball in the evenings, and having thoughtful conversations at night. Each of you made this program memorable and for that I am so thankful! Stay blessed.



**Marissa Valdovinos**  
**COMP**  
**Scripps College**

What makes SHPEP special is its ability to illustrate the power of diversity and its rightful place in the health professions. I will carry all of the beautiful memories (volleyball games, sing-alongs, and shared meals) I have made here in my heart. I am proud of y'all. ❤️



**Michael Simon, MS**  
**Dental**  
**Western University of Health Sciences**

As a future healthcare professional, I want to become a positive platform for pre-health students from disadvantaged backgrounds. I believe that diversity in healthcare is the solution to improving access to care, and SHPEP has allowed me to play a role in that process.

# SHPEP Alliance Team



**Guadalupe "Mirtha" Soltero, Helen Musharbash,  
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**Dean Steven Friedrichsen, DDS.**



**Sean Rowan, MA**



**Tanisha Hampton**



**Alejandra Cervantes  
Anthropology  
Smith College 2019**

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**Sean Rowan, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, WesternU College of Dental Medicine**

As a first-generation college graduate the mission and vision of SHPEP is close to my heart. I believe SHPEP is a wonderful program that provides an excellent opportunity for students who are seeking to learn and grow professionally. To the 2019 Scholars, I wish you much continued success as you further your education and aspirations to become healthcare professionals.

**Tanisha Hampton, Director of Operations College of Biomedical Sciences**

Being a Den Parent for the past three years has been a wonderful experience. I am so happy to have met such hard working and compassionate scholars. Keep moving forward and know that the WesternU family will continue to provide support.

These past six weeks have been proof of your commitment to a better future not solely for yourselves, but the communities around you. I wish you all the best of luck on your future endeavors. Thrive in your struggle and thrive in your success.

***On behalf of WesternU SHPEP staff, faculty and administration, congratulations to the SHPEP 2019 scholars for completing this rigorous but very rewarding program!!! We know you will all thrive in your respective health career paths and will make the world a better place.***















