

APhA-ASP INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AWARD

Pharmacy Phriends Mentoring Program Union University

Identifying a Need

- APhA-ASP chapter members recognized a lack of community amongst current members and undergraduate pre-pharmacy students.
- Incoming student pharmacists often felt lost and did not know anyone when entering pharmacy school.

A New Idea is Born

- APhA-ASP chapter members created the first program at the university to help guide students through the transition to pharmacy school by pairing a pre-pharmacy student with a mentor currently in pharmacy school.

Implementation

- Partnered with the College of Pharmacy Department of Admissions
- Collaborated with the undergraduate Sophomore Class President, who was a pre-pharmacy student, to represent the desires of the pre-pharmacy students
- Invited pre-pharmacy students to APhA-ASP chapter events
- Had sign-ups for mentors in December 2021
- Paired current P1 and P2 chapter members with their undergraduate Phriend
- Announced pairs of Phriends in February 2022
- Provided free coffee coupons to each pair, so they could meet in a relaxed atmosphere
- Held events catered toward Phriend pairs, to encourage spending time together



"The Spooktacular Pumpkin Carving Party" - The first event of the year that APhA-ASP chapter members invited pre-pharmacy students to attend.

"The End of the Year Party"
- The final gathering of the year with nachos, board games, and an opportunity for Phriend pairs to spend time together.



Impact and Outcomes

- More involvement in APhA-ASP events and activities
- A total of 15 mentors and 13 pre-pharmacy students; two pre-pharmacy students had two mentors
- Incoming student pharmacists reported they felt much more prepared entering pharmacy school.

"Because of the Pharmacy Phriends program, starting pharmacy school went from an unnerving endeavor into an exciting adventure. I am a better student pharmacist because of this program."

- Rachel Dawson, Current P1 Student Pharmacist

"This is a super unique opportunity that has allowed me and others the ability to get comfortable with the names and faces of the pharmacy school and really build that special relationship."

- Caden Greene, Current Freshman Pre-Pharmacy Student

Looking Forward...Future Goals

- Expand the program and get more mentors involved, so that each mentee could have two or more mentors
- Begin planning group activities more often and announce Phriend pairs sooner in the year to start encouraging pre-pharmacy students earlier in their schooling
- Continue partnership with the Department of Admissions; more pre-pharmacy student involvement in APhA-ASP activities

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