

WesternU

College of Podiatric Medicine



Meet Brian

2023 Recipient of the
Bako Medical Education Foundation Endowed Scholarship



BAKO,

Thank you very much for your generous donation in support of students like me. I am so very honored to be this year's recipient of the Bako Medical Education Foundation Endowed Scholarship.

A little bit about me: my name is Brian Wong. I am from Houston, TX. My undergraduate work was done at Baylor University. Prior to matriculating to WesternU CPM I served as an AP Biology and AP Environmental Science teacher for Hightower High School in Fort Bend Independent School District in Missouri City, TX. I truly enjoyed the 5 years I spent teaching; I learned so much from my students. I often say they taught me just as much if not more than I taught them. While I loved teaching I always knew my heart was in health care. After learning about podiatric medicine and all that the profession had to offer I decided to take the leap and apply; this was probably my silver lining of the pandemic.

Next thing you know I'm moving out west to attend WesternU CPM; and I can honestly say I am still to this day so happy with my decision. WesternU CPM has provided me not only with a challenging yet rewarding educational experience, but also a supportive community that truly cares. The environment here at WesternU is structured so that students not only succeed but thrive. Outside of academics here at WesternU CPM, I serve as the President of SCPMSA; as such I am part of WesternU CPM's delegation at the APMSA House of Delegates. I also serve as a SALT Ambassador, CPM Big Buddy Mentor, and CMR1 TA. I am a member of WesternU's ACFAS club, I participate in the Pomona Health Career Ladder, and I volunteer for the Seomaritan Initiative, Care Harbor, Happy Feet, and Special Olympics when opportunities arise. In short I am try to making the most of my time here at WesternU.

This scholarship will have such a positive impact on my wife and I; we just recently welcomed our first child this past October. Emerson Khai Wong. Juggling parenthood and medical school these past 5 months has been quite a journey but I would not trade it for the world. Being a parent is something else; seeing my son learn, grow, and experience each day fills me with so much joy. Thank you again for your donation and support.

Regards,

Brian Wong
DPM Class of 2025

Learn More About
Brian Wong, DPM 2025
\$1,000 Award Recipient



Hometown:	Houston, TX
Undergrad:	Baylor University
Degrees:	B.S. Biology
Hobbies/Interests:	Cooking, travel, nature, weight training, science fiction
Previous Career/Job:	High school science teacher, swim coach
Associations/Clubs:	APMSA, CPMA, ACFAS, ACPM

What inspired you to pursue your health sciences career path? Health science is a fascinating field of study; I am continuously amazed by the knowledge that has been gathered thus far as well as the innovations that are being made. It is a field that is constantly changing and allows for life long learning; that's exciting stuff. Why wouldn't someone want to pursue that as a career. Couple that life long learning environment with the ability to serve people in their time of need and impact their lives for the better; it's an easy choice for me.

Why did you choose to attend WesternU? I chose to attend WesternU because of the sense of community that I felt during my interactions with faculty, administration, and student representatives. Having been here for almost 2 academic years now I can say that the sense of community here at WesternU is not just for show; it is something that is very much engrained in the fabric of this university. I am proud to be part of it.

In what activities are you involved at WesternU? I serve as the President of SCPMSA and thus am part of WesternU CPM's delegation at the APMSA House of Delegates. I also serve as a SALT Ambassador, CPM Big Buddy Mentor, and CMR1 TA. I am a member of WesternU's ACFAS, I participate in Pomona Health Career Ladder, and I volunteer for the Seomarian Initiative, Care Harbor, Happy Feet, and Special Olympics when opportunities arise.

What is the best thing about being a WesternU student? Being able to collaborate with and learn from so many amazingly talented people who come from all walks of life and backgrounds.

What is your proudest accomplishment? My son Emerson. My wife Serena and I welcomed him just this past October. These past 5 months have been challenging to say the least; but I wouldn't trade any of it. Seeing him grow, learn, and experience each and every day fills me with so much pride and joy. I love it.

How will this scholarship impact you? This scholarship will certainly help ease my wife's and my financial responsibilities/obligations; especially now that we have Emerson.

What are your future career plans/goals? I would like to contribute to this amazing profession in a positive way; help further the progress that those before me have made thus far. How that will look I am not sure yet; perhaps getting involved with associations that will push for parity amongst DPM and their DO and MD counterparts or putting my teaching experience to use and helping train future generations of podiatric physicians. I just hope that when all is said and done in my career, I'll be leaving it better than when I found it.

What impact are you hoping to make on the community you serve? A positive one. I want to be of service to my community as a resource; someone people feel comfortable coming to and sharing details of their lives with. I'd like to be a practitioner patients can collaborate with in order to achieve the health goals that will allow them to live the lives they want.

Your generosity makes an Impact. It changes lives for the better, and it creates health equity for all, locally and nationally.



On behalf of WesternU faculty, staff, administrators, students, and the communities who you help flourish...

THANK YOU.

alumnifriends.westernu.edu