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UNIVERSITY
of MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

DR. WILLIAM M. SCHOLL
COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

Bako Medical Education Foundation Endowed Merit Scholarship Meet Jay Patel, SCPM Class of 2024



What activities have you participated in at Scholl College that impacted you?

I have been heavily involved with the Interprofessional Community Clinic, serving on the executive board to navigate the realm of telehealth while simultaneously ensuring our patient population receives equitable care. Additionally, I am a member of the Scholl Ambassador Program and represent my class on our class council.

What inspired you to become a physician?

My desire to pursue medical school did not manifest until I had the opportunity to work in an orthopedic clinic. I have been an athlete since a young age, which, of course, can come with injuries. I began to realize the vulnerability and hardships other individuals must bear, especially if patients don't have a support system. The impact physicians have in helping patients regain their sense of belonging and capability of performing necessary activities of daily living inspired me.

Why did you choose Scholl College?

Scholl College stuck out to me from the very beginning. I felt a sense of belonging with the faculty and student body. In addition, Scholl College represents an environment where I have the opportunity to give back and feel a connection to the institution.

What is the greatest learning experience you have had at Scholl College?

Scholl College will forever be a place of adaptiveness and resiliency. I have found success in and outside the classroom setting. I have learned that no matter the circumstance, I have been able to lean on the support of my classmates and faculty to get through any hurdle.

When you reflect upon your Scholl College education, what are you most grateful for?

I appreciate that I am able to network and connect with so many practicing podiatrists who are highly renowned in the community. Faculty are mentors and push me to perform to my greatest potential.

How has this scholarship impacted your Scholl College experience?

The generous scholarship gave me a boost of confidence to keep working hard toward such a rewarding career.

What do you want to say to your donor?

Your generous contribution toward my education is greatly appreciated! The financial burden of pursuing medical school can be strenuous, and your donation really impacted and benefited me this past year. I have been able to excel to a higher level of learning while continuing to serve my community. My success would not have been possible without your generosity. Thank you so much.

What impact are you hoping to make as a Scholl College alumni physician/leader?

Throughout my entire educational journey, I have wanted to feel a sense of connection to an institution. This didn't occur until I came to Scholl College. I am proud of my achievements and future. I hope to allow prospective students the opportunity to see that as a non-traditional student who has faced roadblocks along the way, the ability to succeed is always within reach — all it takes is the motivation to strive for excellence and Scholl College inherently provides that. I hope to pay it forward one day to help future students achieve their goals and provide motivation for their continued success.