

The Lang Youth Medical Program at New York-Presbyterian Hospital

Grant Type: *Dollar*

Grant Amount: *\$3.25 million, including a \$2.75 million endowment*

Organization: *Eugene M. Lang Foundation*



What was the objective of your grant or initiative?

To create a hospital-based, 6-year science enrichment program for middle- and high-school students from the surrounding Washington Heights, New York, community that increases their science enthusiasm and ability, and motivates and prepares them for a career in the health sciences.

New York Presbyterian Hospital anticipates that, over the long term, the Lang Youth Medical Program will contribute to the health care training pipeline and to the breaking of intergenerational cycles of poverty.

What was your approach?

The “mini” medical school curriculum that integrates hands-on science lessons with lessons in writing, humanities, and life skills and with community service is offered in two phases: Phase One for 7th through 9th graders and Phase Two for 10th through 12th graders.

The students are also prepared intensively:

- For the high-school application process through test preparation, tours, high-school fairs, and workshops for parents
- For college with test preparation, tours, and the guidance of a mentor who assists with application preparation and scholarship research, and who helps ensure college readiness and successful entrance

During the summer months, the Phase Two students participate in paid internships.

What were the outsized results?

Among the cohorts that have completed the 6-year commitment, all 39 graduates are currently attending or have graduated from 4-year colleges and universities, and 80% have declared majors in the sciences or health care professions.

Overall, student attendance rates have been consistently high (95%) and grade-to-grade retention rates are also high (89%). Beyond the successes of the students, the program has been positively received by the hospital’s staff, many of whom have become repeat volunteers with the program. The 6-year curriculum has been fully tested and evaluated, and could be made available for replication. Furthermore, the program has demonstrated to the surrounding community that the hospital is committed to the community’s young people.

