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Educators reflect on transforming physician training

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This Spotlight on Innovation post contains insights from educators who attended the AMA's [CHANGEMEDED](#) conference, which brought together more than 350 leaders from across the medical education continuum and related fields to continue transforming how future physicians are trained. Didn't have a chance to attend? Check out these key reflections and highlights from the event.

Judith Brenner, MD

Associate Dean of Curricular Integration and Assessment
Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine

"It was inspiring to be surrounded by so many dedicated educators, all bonded by the common goal of innovating medical education. It's what I love about my job at my home medical school and that feeling was amplified so much at the conference. I learned something from every session. I was driven to consider how someone else's idea of experience could be applied to my own school.

As a dean at a new school, it made me keenly aware of the gift I live every day of working at a place whose entire mission is innovation. In not having as many barriers, I truly appreciate the opportunities we have back home. I think I'm inspired more than ever to share the experiences—both the successes and the failures—with the med ed community.

Each institution is not in this alone and we, as a community of educators, must create spaces to share ideas, knowing that we are all aligned with a common goal of innovation. I truly appreciate the work the AMA has done to enable this conversation to move forward."



Kelly Caverzagie, MD

Associate Dean for Educational Strategy
University of Nebraska Medical Center

[Mick Ebeling's "Not Impossible" session](#) ... reminded us to continue pressing forward to do the right thing. As he said, "Commit, then figure it out." This is what the ChangeMEDED conference is all about.

I'm excited to take home the idea to involve students and charge them to develop certain parts of our revised curriculum.

Alma Littles, MD

Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education and Academic Affairs
Florida State University College of Medicine

This was one of the best medical education meetings I have attended. There was a lot of opportunity to connect with colleagues and to meet new ones. ... The format of the program allowed time for reflection with other attendees immediately following each session. It was clear that the founding members of the AMA's Accelerating Change in Medical Education Consortium have been busy, and we were privileged to hear of their successes and challenges in implementing many of the things others of us are interested in doing.

I was both depressed and inspired by the session on minorities in medicine, particularly black males. [Seeing the statistics](#) and realizing how slowly change is coming was disappointing. However, hearing that schools are starting to pay attention, and more of them are developing pipeline programs designed to increase the number of minorities in medicine was encouraging.

My cellphone was busy taking pictures of information being presented because I couldn't wait until the presentations



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got posted before thinking deeper about some of the information. The presentation that [discussed] changes under the Affordable Care Act was very informative and gave a clearer picture of the reimbursement environment our graduates can anticipate.

We implemented a new curriculum this summer with a goal of it being better integrated, competency-based and developmentally appropriate. Therefore, the presentation on lessons learned in making a competency-based medical education succeed was particularly of interest to me, and I will be sharing those lessons learned with our faculty in a curriculum committee soon.

Finally, we are developing a Physician Assistants' program at FSU, and I was honored to have the opportunity to meet the leaders of each of the national PA organizations – NCCPA, ARC-PA and PAEC. Having a conversation with them about interprofessional education and practice was one of the highlights of the meeting for me.



Tess Timmes

Third-year medical student

Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health

I presented Boston University's Homeless Healthcare Curriculum at the conference and had a fantastic experience. I really enjoyed hearing what other students, physicians, and educators are changing and implementing at their schools. It was also exciting to present on a topic our group of students find so important, and to get some great feedback and enthusiasm from other schools about the same issues.

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