FSU College of Medicine recognized for diversity success

Doug Carlson
College of Medicine

The Florida State University College of Medicine has received the 2019 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from "Insight Into Diversity" magazine.

The award recognizes U.S. medical, dental, pharmacy, osteopathic, nursing, veterinary, allied health and other health schools and centers demonstrating an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. The College of Medicine, one of 43 health-professions programs honored, is receiving the award for a third consecutive year.

"This medical school was created with a goal of helping to meet health-care needs in communities that have traditionally struggled to provide adequate access to care," College of Medicine Dean John Fogarty said.

"This award really recognizes the fact that we are true to our mission and we are succeeding in producing the physicians Florida — as well as the rest of the U.S. — needs most. That includes our record of producing numerous alumni who now practice in rural parts of the state, especially in Northwest Florida."

The College of Medicine has developed several pipeline programs successful at bringing more students into medical school from communities that are underrepresented in the physician workforce. Two of those programs in particular have helped to produce physicians now caring for patients in communities that traditionally struggled to recruit new doctors.

STRIDE (Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity and Excellence) identifies students as early as the eighth grade who have an aptitude for science and math and the potential to be developed into a successful medical school applicant.

The Bridge Program gives applicants from underserved backgrounds, both inner-city and rural, the opportunity to prepare for medical school through a one-year master’s program.