Wisconsin Express
2017 Evaluation

Spring Break: March 19-24 • 26 students, 3 sites
Summer: May 21-26 • 74 students, 11 sites

ASHLAND • BELOIT • FENNIMORE • GREEN BAY
LA CROSSE • LADYSMITH • MILWAUKEE • MINOCQUA
SHAWANO • SHEBOYGAN • STEVENS POINT • WAUSAU
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Executive Summary

In 2017, a total of 100 students participated in the Wisconsin Express at 14 sites throughout the state. Twelve of these sites conducted their programs during summer break, the other two sites conducted their program during spring break. This evaluation is a reflection of the opinions of the 68 students who completed the evaluation survey (approximately 68% of the 100 participants).

Overall, participants described the program as a valuable experience that was run effectively and efficiently. Students also reported that the experience had very significant positive impacts on their personal and professional outlooks.

This evaluation provides information about the participant cohort as well as student opinions of the program’s effectiveness and impact. The sections titled “Most and least valuable activities” and “Participant Statements: General comments and feedback” may be useful for improving program curricula and itineraries in the future. The “Participant Statements: General comments and feedback” section as well as the “Participant Statements: Advice for Future Students” section include a wide variety of quotes from students that may be useful for promoting the program in the future.

Prepared By: Nehemiah Chinavare and Jordan Gaal
WI AHEC Program Office
November 30, 2017
Participant Information

Overall Attendance: 100  Survey Responses: 68  Response Rate: 68%

How did you learn about the program?

- My academic program notified me: 71%
- Saw it advertised on a bulletin board: 1%
- Previous participant told me about it: 9%
- Received a mailing: 6%
- AHEC website: 10%
- Other: 3%

Participant responses categorized as “other” included: a student organization at UW-Madison called CHAR S and Facebook.

Reason for Attending the Program

- A required course, or part of a required course: 7%
- One of several options for fulfilling a core requirement: 5%
- An elective that counts for credit toward general degree requirements: 28%
- A non-credit elective or volunteer experience: 4%
- Other (Field work for Global Health Certificate, exploring health careers, etc.): 56%
See *Wisconsin Express 2017 Summary Report* for additional data about participants.

## Program Operation and Effectiveness

Participants were asked to rate the program based on a variety of categories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Experience</td>
<td>79.41%</td>
<td>16.18%</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
<td>2.94%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Specific Areas of Rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application process</td>
<td>76.47%</td>
<td>23.53%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation and pre-arrival communication from site coordinator</td>
<td>66.18%</td>
<td>33.82%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance from AHEC program office</td>
<td>63.24%</td>
<td>35.29%</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>60.29%</td>
<td>38.24%</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodging</td>
<td>86.76%</td>
<td>11.76%</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation during the week</td>
<td>86.76%</td>
<td>11.76%</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itinerary: Variety of Activities</td>
<td>77.94%</td>
<td>17.65%</td>
<td>4.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itinerary: Quality of Activities</td>
<td>91.18%</td>
<td>5.88%</td>
<td>2.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itinerary: Pace of Activities</td>
<td>83.82%</td>
<td>11.76%</td>
<td>4.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program value compared to price ($210)</td>
<td>63.24%</td>
<td>33.82%</td>
<td>2.94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How Effective Were Specific Activities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Very Effective</th>
<th>Effective</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Ineffective</th>
<th>Very Ineffective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How effective were the Sunday/Monday introduction as preparation for your site experience?</td>
<td>44.78%</td>
<td>46.27%</td>
<td>7.46%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>1.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How effective were group interactions during the week in enhancing your learning experience?</td>
<td>69.12%</td>
<td>27.94%</td>
<td>2.94%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most and Least Valuable Activities

Most Valuable Activity by Site
Respondents gave the following open ended responses when asked to describe the most valuable activity from their respective site.

ASHLAND
- Discussions, formal and informal.

BELOIT – Spring Break
- At the Beloit location I found visiting the rock county jail to be a very valuable experience. Almost all the experiences were very valuable because they exposed us to disparities that are very common in Wisconsin.
- Loved the color personality test, the jail tour, and the visit to the health center.
- The many different types of healthcare we got to see.
- The Rock County Jail Tour, and the day at Beloit Technical College.
- Touring the jail, and hearing from the employees of the health clinic.
- Visiting a jail, SIM childbirth, Hispanic Immersion.

BELOIT – Summer
- Prison tour, OWI court, dinner with Sy, FQHC tour, HealthNet, Hispanic culture lesson, advocacy lesson with Sara Finger, Baptist church service.
- Speaking to primary sources about their experiences with health disparities.
- Talking with different health providers.
- Visit to state prison and learning about how the uninsured and those in poverty receive medical help.

FENNIMORE
- ADRD Dementia Simulation, Secure Facility Shadowing, Translator Information.
- I found it very valuable to talk to Community Action Programs and learn about the opportunities they provide for individuals. I also found it helpful to interact with a doctor in improving my confidence to pursue a career in medicine.
- I really enjoyed going to the state prison. I saw a whole different side of health care that I never imagined as a career choice.
- I truly loved going to the prison and learning more about a different side of health care.

GREEN BAY
- I found value in the overall experience, I think all BSN students should try to take this course
- I really enjoyed the variety of activities that the Green Bay site offered. We spent a day with the Oneida tribe where we got a tour of the reservation and we got to see their culture firsthand and how they live day-to-day, and then to wrap up the day we were exposed to the health care side of things.
- I really enjoyed the variety of activities that we participated in at the Green Bay site. You learn so much more when you actually get to engage in the activities than you would just watching a video or reading about it.
- Shadowing a physician at a free health care clinic

LA CROSSE
- Going to the clinics, hospitals, etc. and actually experiencing what those organizations do.
- Visiting with Dr. DeLine and going to the AIDS Resource Center.

LADYSMITH – Spring Break
- Visiting EMBRACE.
- Visiting students at the high schools; learning about the Indianhead Community Action Agency.

MILWAUKEE
Any time that we had a focus group and talked directly to people who were being negatively affected by the healthcare system I feel as though I took away the most information.

School nurse visit, serving and eating community meal with the homeless, mindful movement class, STEP industries, Meta House.

Seeing the work the Salvation Army does, and how the organization attempts to make a permanent difference in people’s lives, as opposed to putting band aids on issues.

Serve at the Gathering, Community Health Worker Panel, Steve Ohly: The Healing Collective: Models that Work, Dinner and Reflection at St. Ben’s Community Meal, Tour/Lunch/Talk at STEP Industries, Shelley Gregory from the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Segregation in Milwaukee and Its Impact on Health and Healthcare.

Serve at the Gathering, Dinner and Reflection at St. Ben’s Community Meal, Tour/Lunch/Talk at STEP Industries, Steve Ohly: The Healing Collective: Models that Work

St. Bens Food meal program.

The focus group/storytelling sessions. I got to hear the personal stories of people I never would have otherwise talked to (homeless, recovering drug addicts, undocumented immigrants for example).

MINOCQUA (Spring Break)

- All of the visits we went on were great! I truly learned something from each location. I enjoyed the variety of locations from rehabilitation centers to prisons to hospitals. I’m not sure I could pick which was the most valuable because they were all truly useful.
- I found exposure to unfamiliar areas was the most valuable. This would include the tour of the minimum security prison, the Lac Du Flambeau reservation, and the women’s shelter.
- I really enjoyed visiting the reservation and learning more about the Native American Culture.
- The non-standard programs such as the domestic violence shelter, the prison, and Koinonia.

MINOCQUA (summer)

- I enjoyed meeting and talking with local community leaders to learn about the challenges they face and how healthcare impacts their communities.
- I enjoyed talking to members of the community and getting a first-hand look at the problems in the community.
- Ones on the reservation, especially those who grew up on the reservation and now work there. I also thought we had a good comprehensive few of healthcare services such as the substance abuse program, domestic violence shelter, the reservation’s clinic, a hospital. It was very well planned.
- Various visits with different entities on the Lac Du Flambeau reservation.

SHAWANO

- I found that the poverty simulation, visiting the Domestic Violence Shelter, the food pantry, and the treatment center were all very helpful.
- I worked with the Menominee population in Shawano, and I thought our time at the clinic was very valuable, as well as all of our experiences getting to talk to people from the community. The Domestic abuse center was very powerful, as was the information we learned at the substance abuse recovery center.

SHEBOYGAN

- For my experience, I find that the discussion of sex trafficking was so important to everyone, because it used to be treated like a norm and not much people understood it. Therefore, with greater understanding of this, you become more observant of others and your own surroundings. In addition, the activities that just introduce and discuss the valuable resources you have in the community, like how the Salvation Army works in sheltering homeless people is also great information to know. This is because you are able to understand what resources offer what and be able to work together with them or you can offer the best resource to suit another person’s needs.
- For my experience, I found that learning about the resources within your community is very vital, because you can become a gateway for others who do not know about those resources. It also gives you a greater appreciation of communities for their effort to try to improve health outcomes, such as how the Salvation Army offers homeless shelters or Safe Harbor offers domestic abuse care. I also find it interesting on the
ER offering sexual assault care. The one I find most valuable is the discussion of the sex trafficking because
it was once treated as a norm. This allows one to fully be aware of one’s surroundings and the people
around that person.
- I really enjoyed learning about all of the different resources available within the community, and I also
enjoyed learning about the federally qualified health care centers.
- Sex trafficking discussion
- The activities I found the most valuable were ones that I was able to physically participate in. For me, the
  Poverty Simulation was a great reminder of the conditions that I grew up in as a child. It helped me to
  once again recognize that poverty is more than just an issue of money.
- The activities I found the most valuable, were activities that I was physically able to get involved in. For
  example, the poverty simulation was a great experience for me. Though it was fun, it really showed the
  struggles that low-income families have with trying to manage to get by. Not only that, but it showed well
  the struggles that low-income people go through.
- The Poverty Simulation

STEVENS POINT
- Exposure to various populations in the community.
- Very last day when the northern AHEC coordinator came and related the site to health care
- Visiting the Oneida Nation Wellness Center and CAP Services

WAUSAU
- Directly interacting with health care workers who serve Amish and Mennonite communities, and learning
  how they translate their technical knowledge to actually making a measurable difference.
- Meeting with the folks in the Amish community was fascinating. I would have never had this opportunity
  and I’m so grateful to have had this chance.
- The meetings with specific members of the population that was being emphasized at the site.

Least Valuable Activity by Site
Respondents gave the following open ended responses when asked to describe the least
valuable activity from their respective site.

BELOIT/JANESVILLE – Spring Break
- I found the activities that were very lecture based and just an individual reading off a PowerPoint to be
  less valuable.
- I liked all the activities, but there could've been more time to talk to the OBGYN/RN panel.
- Some of the lectures got very long and it was hard to stay focused

BELOIT/JANESVILLE – Summer
- Introduction to health disparities (interesting content but the format could be more engaging)
- Tour of Blackhawk Tech

FENNIMORE
- I thought it was more of a prison health focus than anything else.
- I found it least valuable to learn about midwifery via videos. However, this was due to the fact that our
  midwife appointment was cancelled due to an unexpected birth.
- Sometimes there were too many speakers in one day.

GREEN BAY
- I really thought all of the activities were effective. If I could change one thing about them, however, I
  would change the duration of some of them. For example, the Poverty Simulation was a great learning
  experience, but it did get a little long. Another aspect of the Poverty Simulation that I would potentially
  change is to switch up each round who is the parent/child. I understand the importance of having a family
  dynamic and showing how hard it is for parents to take care of the children, but the people in my group
  who played the child role, just sat in school all day, so they didn't get anything out of the simulation.
LA CROSSE
- Touring the HoChunk Health Care Center
- We never had enough time to spend at each place to ask questions and talk to members of the community, employees, etc.

LADYSMITH – Spring Break
- I think we could have visited fewer hospitals and still received the same understanding of rural health care systems.
- Talking about hospice

MILWAUKEE
- Learning about the early historical roots of a church we visit, although informational, is not very applicable.
- Some of the lectures that were not extremely relevant.
- Sometimes the discussions with professionals got a little wearisome. It felt a little less personal and more like being lectured to. They provided great information, but it wasn't as engaging as the storytelling sessions.
- Talking about interpretation at Walkers point clinic
- Tour of St. Ben's clinic, Amaranth Cafe: Owner’s community experiences
- Urban Ecology Center at Washington - ROOT project (too long), Visits to Milwaukee Public Schools (too long)

MINOCQUA (Spring Break)
- I thought that the movie we viewed at the beginning, while very informative, was not a fantastic introduction to the experience.
- I wish that some of the activities were more hands on versus just listening to members of the community speak.
- They were all valuable, obviously the Rhinelander historical society was unnecessary, but I thought it still helped to understand the culture.

MINOCQUA (summer)
- dental presentation
- I felt all activities were valuable and I thought there was a good mix between cultural and health activities. I would have liked to meet more with locals to get their perspective on healthcare rather than only well-educated, community leaders.
- The only one I didn't appreciate as much (although I still found informative) was dental challenges in the Northwood, but I believe that was because I am not going into dental services so it was hard to relate. I still found it to be informative and important

RUSK/BARRON (Spring Break)
- I wouldn't say least valuable but I was a little disappointed that our group wasn't able to help with a particular service project due to computer mishap/miscommunication of the day.

SHAWANO
- For my specific experience, the elderly home facility (going into pediatrics) and the introduction slide show.
- Honestly, the day we spent in Green Bay was the least impactful for me. The video showed at the multiple-group orientation was good, but I did not feel that I learned much from the PowerPoint. Also, the poverty simulation is a great idea, but the families should change roles at some point so that the children can have the experience of paying the bills and not just sitting in school the whole time.

SHEBOYGAN
- All activities that were organized for us participants were valuable. However, I feel like there were an abundance of lectures/speakers. The experiences they shared were wonderful and meaningful and I learned much from them. The only problem was that, I did not feel like these lectures immersed me.
- I believe all the activities were valuable. I do feel like there were many lectures, and though they were great, these lectures did not fully immerse students in the culture.
I thought that the day where we went to Green Bay and met with the other groups was least valuable. I understand what the goal of that was but I do not think that it was executed properly. One idea that I had was that it would have been really interesting perhaps to organize a panel of different healthcare professionals from different races and ethnicities to discuss not only what it’s like to work as a part of an interprofessional team, but also what cultural competency looks like in action. It would have been nice to hear from actual providers about their experiences in order to contextualize everything we are learning about.

- The combined group orientation
- The Job Assistance Center
- Though I enjoyed all the speakers and lectures, these activities were the hardest for myself to feel immersed in. The information and experiences shared were amazing but I felt like I was not being immersed.

**STEVENS POINT**
- Lack of health-care involvement in the entire program.
- Visiting multiple farms.
- Visiting the charter school, although very interesting, it was hard to connect it with healthcare.

**WAUSAU**
- Repetitive information.
- Some of the intro activities on Sunday seemed a bit excessive and weren’t necessarily super helpful.
9

Plans to Work in Wisconsin in the Future
Yes: 40%  Maybe: 53%  No: 7%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Participant Hometown</th>
<th>Size of Community in Which You Would Like to Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large City (500,000 or more)</td>
<td>12% 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburb of a Large City</td>
<td>12% 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate-Sized City (50,000-500,000)</td>
<td>28% 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburb of a Moderate-Sized City</td>
<td>13% 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small City (10,000-50,000, not a suburb)</td>
<td>6% 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town (2,500-10,000)</td>
<td>23% 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Town (Less than 2,500)</td>
<td>3% 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural/Unincorporated Area</td>
<td>0% 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>N/A 24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Future Professional Interests
- Counseling (5)
- Engineering (2)
- Health Policy (2)
- Nursing (4)
- Pharmacy (2)
- Physical Therapy (2)
- Physician (29)
- Physician’s Assistant (7)
- Public Health (1)
- Therapy (1)
- Volunteer Management (1)

Participant responses categorized as “other” included: Further education concurrent with employment, further employment down the line, and continued employment at St. Vincent Hospital.
Impacts of the Program on Participant Outlook and Future Plans

Participants were asked to rate the impact of the program based on a variety of categories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As a result of this experience...</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I changed previously held ideas about my own, and unfamiliar cultures.</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
<td>42.65%</td>
<td>7.35%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learned how to identify factors that affect health within a community.</td>
<td>67.65%</td>
<td>29.41%</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I gained insight into how interprofessional teamwork and collaboration are adapted to serve specific populations.</td>
<td>72.06%</td>
<td>26.47%</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learned strategies for responding to health care challenges.</td>
<td>54.41%</td>
<td>39.71%</td>
<td>4.41%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learned strategies for working in groups.</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
<td>47.06%</td>
<td>2.94%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learned strategies for responding to unfamiliar cultures.</td>
<td>67.65%</td>
<td>30.88%</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I increased my interest in working in health care shortage areas and with underserved populations.</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
<td>20.59%</td>
<td>4.41%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Understanding of Culture in Wisconsin

Participants were asked to describe how their Wisconsin Express experience had influenced their understanding of culture in Wisconsin. A sampling of their responses are listed below.

- I now have a greater understanding of the diversity of race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, etc. in Wisconsin and how these factors influence health status.
- I now have a much greater appreciation of the Amish and Mennonite populations that live in Wisconsin, as well as their healthcare needs and the challenges that may be faced in meeting those needs. I definitely see Wisconsin culture in different ways, thinking more outside of the needs of my own group.
- In all reality, I did not realize just how much communities and counties are coming together to try to combat negative public health concerns which is great and valuing to see.
- It allowed me to realize how many more different cultures are all around the state, growing up and now going to school in metropolitan areas I forget about the more rural parts of the state and how diverse and rich in culture they are in their own ways.
- It greatly improved my understanding of rural and public health as I do not have much exposure to that in my coursework.
- It helped me gain insight into new cultures and diversity in health care that I had very little exposure to. Specifically, it opened my eyes to the fact that WI has a lot of diverse cultures and communities despite previous opinion.
- It helped me to better understand just how difficult health care can be for certain populations and that we need to change some of our long standing programs to benefit people more.
- It helped me understand how deeply rooted the segregation between the minority cultures in Milwaukee run and how that creates even more problems for the community.
Understanding of Inter-Professional Health Care Teams

Participants were asked to describe how their Wisconsin Express experience had influenced their understanding of inter-professional health care teams. A sampling of their responses are listed below.

- As an engineer, I was excited to see that some of the locations we visited employed engineers or other equivalent professions. Engineering in healthcare is a very progressive business and systems model and I am thrilled to see that there are opportunities to work outside of the massive hospital industry in the bigger cities. I was interested to see how the use of engineers in the rural setting differed as opposed to the hospitals I've previously encountered. I also enjoyed hearing the clinical perspective from my prospective medical/PA counterparts on the trip. That's a perspective I don't always hear in engineering.
- Getting to see all of the different people and roles that make up a health care team was very beneficial.
- Greatly increased my awareness of the benefits of incorporating inter-professionalism into my career.
- I have always wanted to work in one of these interprofessional health care teams, because then we will be able to discuss and best treat patients from all angles of health care. Therefore, to see it in action is amazing.
- I learned a lot about the dynamics of interprofessional teams, especially because one of the members of the other groups was an RN and she was able to break a lot of misconceptions I previously had.
- I learned about the existence of community health workers. Getting to tour a free clinic with primary care, mental health, and yoga in one building was great. It was also great to hear about how these different resources to provide free healthcare work together to serve those in need of help.
- I learned that communication and understanding is crucial to interprofessional health care teams' success.
- It made me realize the importance of mental health professionals, along with traditional physicians, collaborating to help their patient increase health in all aspects.
- It takes more than one aspect of healthcare to help the community, so we all have to value one another if our goal is to aid the community in terms of overall health.

Influence on Future Education Plans

Did your WI Express experience influence your plans for further education or training?

- Yes 67%
- No 33%
Influence on Future Practice Plans

How did your Wisconsin Express experience influence your future practice plans?

- This was a positive experience and reinforced a previous desire to practice in a similar setting
- This was a positive experience and encouraged me to consider working in a similar setting
- This experience discouraged me from working in a similar setting

Participants were also asked to describe how their Wisconsin Express experience had influenced their future practice plans. A sampling of their responses are listed below.

- Gave me further insight into the need to be up to date with public health practices as well as continuous education on the varying cultures in a healthcare setting. Encouraged me to look into rural medicine more.
- I am an aspiring women's health care provider. My Wisconsin Express was women's health focused and influenced me even more to pursue my goal of becoming an OBGYN.
- I am more interested now in caring for under-served communities as a future physician.
- I am more open to working in the medical field in a rural area.
- I believe that the need for pharmacists in underserved communities is extremely high, not only because pharmacists are the "drug experts" but also because they tend to bridge gaps between patients and other healthcare professionals. Pharmacists are readily available to their community, and their services are often much less costly to patients. This experience helped me realize that my passion lies in utilizing technical knowledge to directly influence lives. From my understanding, I can have a greater impact in underserved communities and find my work more rewarding.
- I definitely will work hard to make sure the healthcare in my future community is well integrated so that we can be the most effective we can be for our community. Also, I will be more aware of the challenges people have to get healthcare or have access to healthcare and work to help as many people as possible get past those barriers to access.
- I definitely would like to serve a rural community as a physician in my later years of practice.
- I hope to integrate more comprehensive healthcare into whatever future practice I may have. This will include resources to connect patients to public health resources and partnerships with mental health providers to ensure that patients are receiving all the care that they need in a local area.
- I never really considered working in a rural area, just because I don't see myself living in one, but now I would strongly consider it, because I think working with a tribe like the Menominee would be better than at some clinics because they need more [medical] professionals.
Participant Statements: Advice for Future Students

Students were asked, “What would you say about Wisconsin Express to a future participant?”
A sampling of their responses is listed below.

- Ask the presenters about anything you are curious about. I think some of the most interesting conversations were sparked by questions that the participants had about the healthcare systems.
- Be open-minded and get ready to learn a lot of new information!
- Definitely do it! There’s something to learn from every person and activity in the program, and the people you meet are all so inspiring!
- Definitely do it, you won’t regret it. Also get to know the other people in your group, they make the experience 10x better.
- Do it- you won’t regret it. In fact, it might change your life.
- Don’t let the experience be a one week thing. Take notes, remember the things you learned and experienced-and hopefully one day we can all use that valuable knowledge to do good in the world.
- Experience and realize the amazing efforts being done in your own backyard. As many have said it before, you do not have to go global to experience public health, because there is as much need for help locally as there is need for global help.
- Go into the week with an open mind! The whole experience is going to open your eyes to new cultural experiences. Get to know all of the other individuals in your site group. They all have a unique perspective to share, and reflections capitalize on the experience. Take advantage of all of the unique opportunities that the week provides, and at the end of the week, you are not only going to be better prepared for your future in health care, but you are going to leave a better-rounded individual.
- I would absolutely recommend the trip to anyone- even if you are not pursuing a degree in a health field specifically, it opens your eyes to the type of care communities and certain people receive and the difficulties these people encounter. This program applies to everyone, no matter what degree or career they are pursuing.
- Research the area and culture you are exploring before you attend.
- It was definitely beneficial and not only academic but also eye-opening in an emotional way as well.
- The learning opportunity of a lifetime.
- The Wisconsin Express program is so much more than you expect it to be in all aspects. You are able to learn and experience community programs that you never knew existed with your motivated peers. This opportunity stimulates conversation about how health care is provided across the state and provokes your desire to serve all individuals that need help obtaining adequate health care.
- This was an amazing experience and it really exceeded my expectations in all areas.
- This will be nothing like you expected, but it will be an amazing experience.
- Very eye-opening and helps solidify one’s future career choices.
- When coming in to the Wisconsin Express program try to be very involved. This for me was the first experience I had with disparities outside of the classroom. The professionals that you will meet have a lot of knowledge and you should make an attempt to get the most out of this because you may find yourself working in a similar field in the future.
- Wisconsin Express is a great opportunity to learn more about the culture and the state of healthcare in Wisconsin by interacting directly with community leaders and healthcare professionals. For those who want to practice in Wisconsin, Wisconsin Express is an invaluable way to learn more about the challenges communities face in your state!
- Wisconsin Express was a truly transformative experience for me. Hearing real people’s stories regarding the intersection of identity and health was much more impactful than anything I have learned in the classroom. It was more than worth the time and money investment!
- You can make a difference in your own backyard; hence, there is as much need for help locally as there is need for help globally. You do not need to go far to make a difference and experience amazing public health and medical shadowing and discussions.
Participant Statements: General Comments and Feedback

Students were asked for general comments and feedback on their experience. A sampling of their responses is listed below.

- Great experience! It was highly academic but also opened our eyes to problems in the community that touched us in an emotional way as well. It was also the perfect length time-wise. I enjoyed that the class size was about 10, more would have been too many, but less would have been less interesting. I felt that we all really learned from each other.
- I absolutely loved the experience, and would do it again in a heartbeat!
- I met great people, now consider many areas/locations and communities for my future career, and learned a lot about what goes on right here in Wisconsin. The price is perfect for a college student- it was definitely worth the price we paid, and we gained invaluable experiences and knowledge from participating.
- I loved the community I was in and the people I was able to stay with. It was an eye-opening experience which I will never forget. I definitely would want to be a part of this program again.
- I really enjoyed my Wisconsin Express experience. I most enjoyed learning with a great group of future healthcare providers while exploring the cultural diversity of the great state of Wisconsin!
- I thought that it was a wonderful experience, and I would highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in healthcare.
- I was very pleased with the program and the variety of topics we were able to cover and discuss.
- It was awesome and really eye opening to have hands on experience with health and health care in Wisconsin!
- Overall this was a great program. It is such a unique opportunity and I am so glad I was able to take part in it. Culture and diversity, as well as interprofessional teamwork is so important and not stressed enough, so I am glad this immersion experience was created. The week flew by, all of the staff and coordinators were so friendly, and overall everything ran very smoothly! The group size of 6 students for Green Bay site was the perfect size. No one in the group was left out and it was a great size for everyone to get to know each other and I built great relationships with all members of the group. Keep up the awesome work with Wisconsin Express. I would highly recommend to everyone!
- Overall, I really enjoyed the experience! In the future, I think it would be beneficial to mix in some hands-on activities for those who learn better that way.
- I will not be surprised if years from now, this will be one of the college experiences I recollect on.
- The Wisconsin Express immersion experience was a beautiful opportunity to learn more about another culture in Wisconsin. Through this experience I learned more about my personal and professional health career goals and how I can best serve cultures other than my own in the future. I learned how to tailor my interpersonal communication skills to fit the needs of future patients and coworkers. This experience solidified my career goals of becoming a rural medical doctor and contributed to the excitement I already have about my career plans. On top of all of this, I was able to work with an amazing team of students and professionals that truly made me feel intelligent and unique.
- This program has been one of my favorite experiences of my undergraduate career. If given the chance, I would gladly volunteer for this program again.
- This was an amazing experience and I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to participate in this experience. I also am thankful for how affordable this trip was, not everybody is fortunate enough to get this time of immersive experience for this price. Most public health trip opportunities like this are abroad and cost thousands of dollars most college students don't have.
- This was an awesome experience! It allowed me to learn about another culture/community and pushed me out of my comfort zone. It inspired me to continue on with applying to medical school. Further, I learned how to tailor my interpersonal communication skills to fit the needs of every individual I work with. I feel that I am more conscious and understanding of other people's cultural practices and beliefs after this experience and am confident to apply this knowledge in my future practice. My leader, Laura Pettersen, was outstanding and made the trip extremely comfortable.