



Diversity Means More
Than **HUE** at ATSU

Graduate Health Professions Scholarship

Graduate
Health
Professions
Scholarship

ATSU's Graduate Health Professions Scholarship (GPS) accentuates the University's unique mission of service and leadership in whole person healthcare. This scholarship is a targeted approach to attract and educate students whose life contributions and experiences are consistent with ATSU's mission to serve in underserved areas. Visit atsu.edu/GPS to learn about GPS scholarship eligibility and requirements.

Visit atsu.edu/donate-now, if you are interested in supporting GPS.





Manzi K.

Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

Community involvement and working with underserved communities has always been a passion of mine, especially during my time as an undergraduate student at Truman State University. These experiences exposed me to the effects of social determinants on health and healthcare disparities, which inspired me to pursue a career in medicine as an osteopathic physician. I am proud to be a part of this school and program that addresses these issues and works toward improving underserved communities through whole person healthcare.

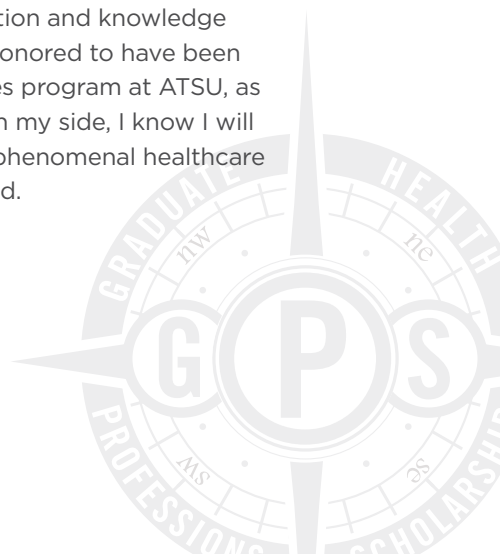


Drina C.

Arizona School of Health Sciences

Physician Assistant Studies program

As a youth, I watched the people I love the most fade away because of obstacles they faced due to healthcare barriers. After graduating with my bachelor's degree in biology from Saint Augustine's University, I made it my obligation to serve underserved communities through the education and knowledge I'll continue to master at ATSU. I feel wholeheartedly honored to have been selected as a student of the Physician Assistant Studies program at ATSU, as well as a GPS scholar recipient. With ATSU and GPS on my side, I know I will be well equipped with the tools needed to become a phenomenal healthcare provider to underserved communities around the world.

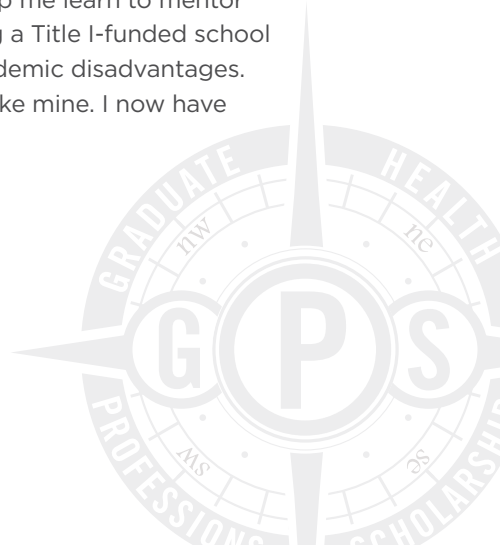




James W.

Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health

"If you see a person who needs help, give your hand." My mother passed down this saying, and now service before self is my top priority. Compassion for others is how we can impact the world. I've overcome poverty, homelessness, crime, statistics, and academic disadvantage and was/am a person needing help. All because of compassion from others. I believe there is always some way anyone could help someone, whether large or small. It truly takes a village to raise a child and support the community. In 2016 at 18 years old, I volunteered to serve in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman, and I found my passion for medicine! In 2019, I received a life-altering jaw surgery in the military; this built my confidence and helped me realize that I, too, could change lives with dentistry. The military is where I enriched my understanding of diversity, inclusion, and structure. During this time, I met my beautiful wife, who told me I was capable and worthy enough to pursue my dream of dentistry and helping others. Although I still have four years of schooling ahead of me, being involved with Diversity & Inclusion on my journey will help me reach out to adults and children who may have faced or are currently facing similar challenges. I am here to tell others they can do anything; sometimes, that's all we need, a push with self-awareness and some form of support. I want to inspire others who may have been in similar circumstances to keep going; the world needs you. I chose ATSU because its mission matches my own! Diversity & Inclusion will help me learn to mentor students who remind me of myself, students attending a Title I-funded school where 88% of the population faces economic and academic disadvantages. My purpose is to give back to communities that look like mine. I now have that opportunity.







Tajinee P.

Arizona School of Health Sciences

Physician Assistant Studies program

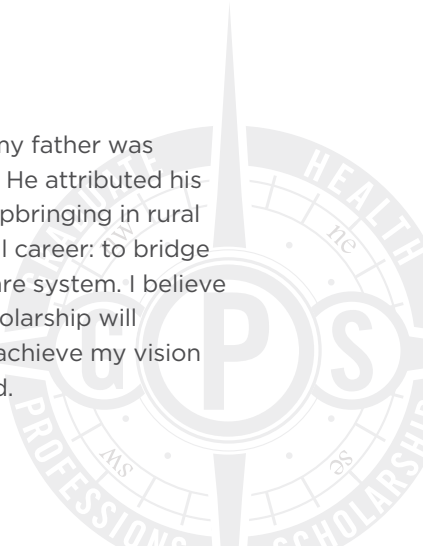
My mission is to lower obstacles to high-quality care for historically underprivileged populations and improve their general health. Not receiving the medical management we deserve has resulted in consequences for me and my family. I strive to promote and advocate for whole person care, educate the public, and help patients manage their treatment. I received a bachelor's in biology and minored in chemistry with a focus on biomedical science from Langston University, the only historically black college and university in Oklahoma. Being a part of an organization with objectives that align with mine makes me grateful. I spent my time before attending ATSU helping at a nearby community health center and a local food bank, as well as exposing myself to marginalized neighborhoods. My awareness of the impact social determinants of health have on a person's ability to obtain, receive, and manage their health has deepened as a result of this experience. I will make the most of my community of like-minded future healthcare professionals and the tools provided to me as a graduate health professional scholar to develop into a skilled professional ready to work with vulnerable populations.



Mariah T.

School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona

While most Sickle Cell patients are diagnosed in childhood, my father was diagnosed with Sickle Cell Beta Thalassemia at the age of 19. He attributed his late diagnosis to his family's low socioeconomic status and upbringing in rural Tennessee. His story birthed my vision for pursuing a medical career: to bridge the gap between underserved communities and the healthcare system. I believe the osteopathic medicine program at ATSU and the GPS scholarship will provide me with the education, network, and community to achieve my vision so that my father's story and others like him are not repeated.





Nicole R.

Arizona School of Health Sciences

Physical Therapy program

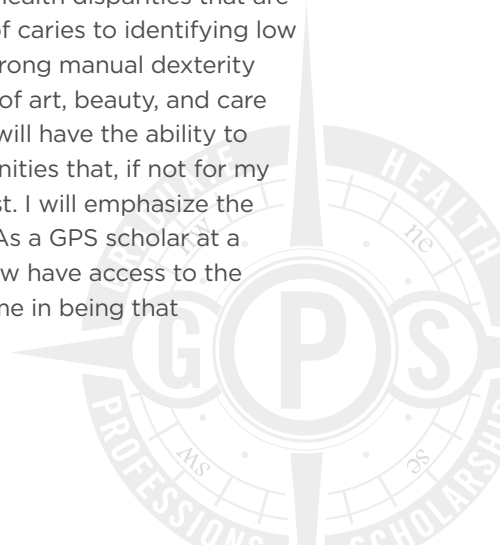
Hello, my name is Nicole, and I'm from Round Rock, Arizona. I am Navajo; my clan is The Towering House People, and I am born for The Red Running into the Water People. I graduated from Grand Canyon University with a bachelor of science in exercise science. I am in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, class of 2026. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, hiking, playing volleyball and basketball, and riding horses.



Akosua A.

Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health

Growing up in an underserved community and not having access to a dentist sparked my curiosity to understand health disparities. Working as a dental assistant in a community health center in Trenton, New Jersey, for the last four years has enlightened my outlook. Each day I see the health disparities that are embedded in dental care, from observing high levels of caries to identifying low levels of dental literacy. Coupled with my talent and strong manual dexterity as a previous cosmetologist, dentistry to me is a form of art, beauty, and care that translates to better life and health. As a dentist, I will have the ability to impact all communities, but most importantly, communities that, if not for my care, would never have the opportunity to see a dentist. I will emphasize the importance of oral health in relation to overall health. As a GPS scholar at a school that values and aligns with the same goals, I now have access to the tools, network, and exposure to those who will assist me in being that dental provider.





Roy E.

Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health

Moving from Nigeria to America at a young age, I witnessed the lack of access to care firsthand and what that felt like. I realized it was my calling to make a change somehow, to find ways to help people that may have felt forgotten feel seen. As a GPS scholar, I am more than grateful for the opportunity to embark on such a journey with like-minded individuals. Our ultimate goal as scholars and future healthcare providers is to integrate the different aspects within the healthcare field in such a way that each patient far and wide feels seen. Due to some extremely personal experiences, I chose to pursue a career in dentistry to help individuals be at the peak of their oral health, while also restoring confidence to those who might have lost theirs. I am beyond excited about my journey here at ATSU-ASDOH and making a difference in dentistry.

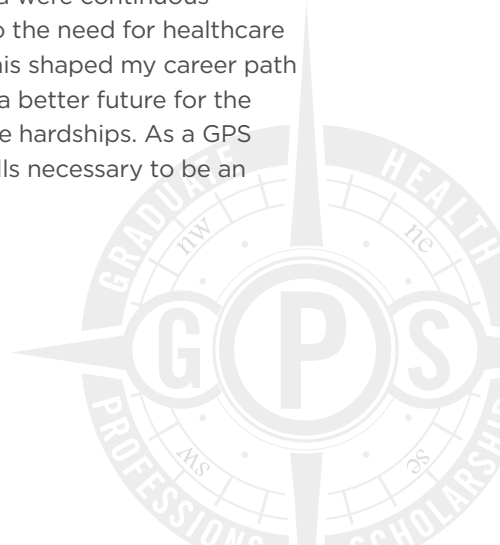


Nina G.

Arizona School of Health Sciences

Physical Therapy program

Growing up in a small town nestled within the Mississippi Delta, I became aware of the obstacles hindering access to quality healthcare. Lack of accessibility and skilled medical professionals in the immediate area were continuous issues. These firsthand experiences opened my eyes to the need for healthcare providers to be more present in my community, and this shaped my career path to pursue physical therapy. I am determined to create a better future for the next generation to ensure they do not endure the same hardships. As a GPS scholar, I will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to be an advocate for all underserved communities.





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Diversity & Inclusion