

HPSA Awards Inaugural SDN Prehealth Scholarships to Three Aspiring Healthcare Leaders

Three prehealth students receive \$2,500 scholarships from the Health Professional Student Association towards their 2025-26 application costs.

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA, UNITED STATES, May 22, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The [Health Professional Student Association](#) is thrilled to announce the awardees of the inaugural SDN Prehealth Scholarship. This year, the scholarship committee has chosen to award \$2,500 scholarships to three exceptional prehealth students seeking to serve their communities as healthcare professionals.

“Each of these students demonstrates not only academic excellence but also a genuine commitment to addressing healthcare disparities in their communities.”

HPSA SDN Scholarship Committee

About the Awardees

Nancy Mahmoud (Degree Goal: DDS/DMD)

Nancy Mahmoud is a graduating senior at the University of California, Santa Barbara, who will apply for admission to dental school in the 2025-2026 cycle. Through her volunteer work, she identified how language barriers, finances, and lack of education all translate into barriers to dental care. “I aspire to be a dentist who is not just a provider but a leader and advocate—someone who ensures that no child loses a tooth because they were never taught how to care for it,” she says, “My community needs me to bridge this gap, and I am ready to dedicate my career to that mission.”

Gabriela Martinez (Degree Goal: MD/DO)

Gabriela Martinez recently completed her studies at Central Washington University and seeks a career as a physician. Before pursuing a healthcare career, she worked in agriculture and saw co-workers struggle with a lack of health insurance as well as being unable to take time off work to seek care. Through her work as a community health worker, “I developed the empathy and knowledge to work with different populations which will allow me to become a skilled and culturally competent physician that people can trust,” she noted, “As a future physician I will

purposely apply the principles of understanding to build trusting relationships with patients and their communities to advocate for and provide quality patient care.”

Shivam Patel (Degree Goal: MD/DO)

Shivam Patel is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He will seek admission to a medical school during the 2025-2026 cycle, with a goal of helping underserved populations access needed medical care. The child of immigrants, he wants to help those who struggle to navigate the complex health care system and delay seeking care. “I am not just entering medicine—I am picking up a call to action,” he states, “I am ready to reach beyond the limits of what is possible to ensure that every child who walks into a clinic...feels safe, seen, and heard.”



HPSA

Health Professional Student Association - Help build the next generation of healthcare professionals

Breaking Financial Barriers for Future Healthcare Professionals

"Creating this scholarship program was a passion project for us," said Laura Turner, Executive Director of HPSA. "As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the [Student Doctor Network](#), we wanted to create a meaningful legacy that directly addresses the financial barriers many talented students face. Through the SDN Forums community, we've witnessed firsthand how financial constraints can limit exceptional candidates from pursuing healthcare careers."

Hundreds of students applied for the scholarship. The SDN Scholarship Committee emphasized that "Selecting just three awardees from our impressive applicant pool was incredibly challenging. Each of these students demonstrates not only academic excellence but also a genuine commitment to addressing healthcare disparities in their communities. Their personal stories and clear vision for how they'll make an impact made them stand out." The SDN Scholarship Committee included Emil Chuck, PhD, HPSA Director of Advising Services; Jordan Robinson, PhD, ABPP, Clinical Neuropsychology; Laura Turner, HPSA Executive Director; and Robert Viviano, DO, Emergency Medicine.

The scholarship will be awarded annually. Students who will be applying for health professional school in the 2026-2027 application cycle can request to be informed when the 2026 scholarship

opens for new applications: <https://mailchi.mp/hpsa/scholarship-information-request>

About the Health Professional Student Association

Health Professional Student Association (HPSA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational association committed to addressing healthcare disparities by providing free resources that help students from healthcare gap regions serve their communities as health professionals. Founded in 1983 to advance the study and promotion of primary care, HPSA has evolved to focus primarily on the support of prehealth and health professional students. Tools and resources provided include the Student Doctor Network forums community, Medical Specialty Selector, and Advice On Call service.

Emil Chuck

Health Professional Student Association

emilchuck@hpsa.org

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