

PRIME-US Student Outreach with Huckleberry Youth

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An important component to PRIME-US is interacting with community based organizations. It gives a chance for PRIME students to immediately give back to the communities that they are interested in working with, and gain additional experience organizing projects. Not only does it benefit PRIME, but it is also a great opportunity for community members, especially young people from underserved communities interested in learning more about the health professions.

Recently, second year PRIME-US medical student Nicolás Barceló organized an outreach event with San Francisco based organization Huckleberry Youth.

"Huckleberry's mission is to educate, inspire, and support underserved youth to develop healthy life choices, to maximize their potential, and to realize their dreams." (<http://www.huckleberryyouth.org/aboutus.html>)

The Saturday event included a tour of the UCSF Parnassus Campus, a panel discussion with UCSF students, a lab simulation in the UCSF School of Dentistry, and a hands-on human organ



pathology presentation. The event was sponsored by a PRIME-US Community Engagement Grant funded by The California Wellness Foundation. When Nicolás was asked why he was interested in organizing this type of outreach event, he responded:

"PRIME empowers students. In addition to expanding medical student education by offering tailored curricular content, PRIME connects students with resources for action. I planned this event with the recognition that as

I am empowered in my journey towards medicine, others should be similarly guided and supported.

UCSF is only a few minutes journey from our target schools. And yet, for some of the aspiring physicians we hosted, it can feel worlds away. With distance and a lack of visibility, there is also misconception. My mission was to break down the distance between UCSF and at least a small part of the greater SF community. By bringing Huckleberry students to campus and connecting them with UCSF students, we hoped to make the journey a more tangible possibility."