

Health care issues are consistently and frequently splashed across the pages of local, national and international newspapers alike - and for good reason. Health care dilemmas, in their applicability to all people, far outweigh numerous other concerns in the modern world. This dire importance and the palpable relevance of health care issues have led me to pursue a higher education of the topics. I am currently a Health Policy and Administration major, with a minor in Economics at the Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa, where I have delved into the complexities of an ever-growing and adapting field.

During my time studying these issues, I have come across numerous real life experiences which validate the legitimacy of the vast problems in the current health care system. This has undoubtedly led me to develop a keen interest in analyzing and troubleshooting how the world of health care is driven, and more importantly, how it can be improved through the use of modern technology, better management, and financial planning.

My most recent work experience at Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare: Offices of Medical Assistance Programs aided my ability to view the bigger picture and tackle a problem as a whole. Here I was on a Medical Assistance Health Information Technology Initiative team that primarily dealt with the implementation of the Enhanced Medical Records Incentive Program. I was involved with providing a provision of technical assistance and future planning, researching and recommending web communications strategies, and researching and developing ROI reports for meaningful use on statewide level. In addition, I was involved with developing and implementing the Healthy Choice Accounts/Power Accounts by researching implementation in other states and current internal processes, researching and proposing IT related components needed to develop the program and devising incremental roll-out options to ensure success across the state of Pennsylvania. Additionally, I was part of a workgroup responsible for developing and implementing enhanced medical homes by researching and providing practical insight based on implementation of Patient Centered Medical Home model and developing a phased approach implementation plan throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

In the healthcare industry, I have come to learn that gaining experience on a larger scale is just as important as gaining experience on a small scale. At Thomas Jefferson University Hospital: Internal Medicine I delved into researching patient centered medical home models to determine best strategies for successful accreditation and implementation of the model. During my time there, I developed policies for practice standards, use of electronic medical records, and quality and performance improvement, developed marketing campaign for preventative screenings and for chronic disease, and developed patient flow models to increase efficiency of the practice. Within a few months of completing my duties, the practice was able to attain the highest level accreditation.

I have been able to implement some of my business economic theories and financial understandings into practice by setting up a small company in which I provided services such as graphic design, web-hosting solutions, marketing, domain acquisition and parking, and consulting, planning, and publishing online business strategies. This self-owned company has allowed me to gain valuable management, finance, communication, and, analytical skills.

I have also obtained leadership qualities by serving on the executive board as the treasurer of the South Asian Student Association for two consecutive years and as president, finance, and technical chair of Dandia On Fire, an intercollegiate dance competition consisting of 1,200 participants. In addition, I was on a nationally recognized dance team that competed all over the United States.

Since rejecting biotechnology as a career possibility, my interest in health policy and administration has only grown. I welcome the challenge of serving a large community and participating in such a dynamic and challenging field. I would like to find ways to save thousands of dollars for health organizations, find ways to get healthcare to more people, and give quality care to everyone.