

# Jocks2Docs at



Program Director: Dr. Marc Legere

**Goal:** To develop a program for underserved youth in the Philadelphia area that will promote awareness of and develop interest, skills, opportunities, and pathways for involvement and career choices in the multi-faceted and exciting world of sports medicine.

Philadelphia has a wealth of community and sports-based youth development programs that are providing havens of safety, sports training, and personal, academic and character mentoring. **Jocks2Docs** is designed to complement the positive youth development work being done by these organizations for a select group of their students who might benefit from a program of expanded exposure and mentoring in areas related to sports medicine.

Vincera Institute, located at Philadelphia's Navy Yard, is a fully integrated array of sports medicine services, with a new, state-of-the-art out-patient surgery center. Its leadership and medical professionals are dedicated to volunteering their professional expertise and leveraging the resources of Vincera Institute, in service to our community, through the work of Vincera Foundation, its philanthropic arm.

## **Sept., 2014 -Vincera Foundation to launch **Jocks2Docs****

The goal is to collaborate with local sports-based youth development programs in the identification, recruitment, and selection of applicants for Vincera Foundation's **Jocks2Docs** program. Applicants will be required to complete an application process including an application form, a recommendation from the sports-based youth development organization, and a personal interview with a Vincera staff or volunteer. The program seeks students whom the participating sports-based youth development organization deems "underserved" within its population who are motivated, academically engaged, positive participants, and likely to benefit from this enhanced exposure and mentoring.

The first-year pilot will begin with a series of introductory tours for larger groups to introduce students and groups to sports medicine. These summer and early fall tours will be followed by a series of more in depth workshops designed for boys and girls who are interested in further exposure to sports injuries, the range of roles in patient care of athletes, and the world of sports medicine. It will consist of two fall, two winter, and two spring introductory experiences for selected students. The program is designed to deliver a structured and supportive hands-on experience, develop skills, and fuel student interest in and motivation for academic achievement in preparation for possible future study and careers. Our intent with this introductory first year is to recruit 6 to 8, 9<sup>th</sup> and/or 10<sup>th</sup> grade students (either from a single organization or a combination of several) per session. Students will come to Vincera Institute once a week for 3 to 6 weeks after school in the 3:30 -5:30 p.m. window for this experience. Tokens or transportation from and to pre-determined center city public transit location(s) will be provided at no cost. All program costs and materials will be free to participants. Interested students, who wish to continue in the program, will receive increasingly sophisticated exposure, curricula, as well as individualized vocational and college tours and counseling through their high school years.

Our long-range goal is to begin this program in middle school. We are hoping that participation in this program will be not only a reward for the selected students, but also one to which others would aspire.

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