

NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



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FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF NEVADA

Medical School cleared of discrimination charges

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The University of Nevada School of Medicine has been given a clean bill of health by the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights. After a one-year investigation, the Office has found that the University of Nevada School of Medicine does not discriminate against minority applicants and none of the school's policies have had an adverse impact on minority applicants.

The Office For Civil Rights began the investigation last January at the request of State Senator Joe Neal, D-Las Vegas. In media reports, Senator Neal cited his concerns over the low number of minority students, particularly African-Americans, as his reason for requesting an investigation. This finding disputes charges that the reason for these low numbers has been discriminatory admissions policies.

Dean Robert M. Daugherty, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., said the finding is a welcome vindication, but not surprising. "We identified the low number of qualified minority applicants as an issue several years ago and have developed a number of programs we believe have been, and will continue to be, successful in recruiting more minorities into medicine," Dr. Daugherty said. "This is not only a medical school problem or a Nevada problem. It is a problem for the local and national education system and minority communities. Ultimately, our success depends on the assistance of these groups."

The finding by the Office For Civil Rights noted that the admission criteria used by the school are not racially discriminatory. The finding also noted that the school has an "active" student recruitment program focusing on increasing minority applicants. The investigation covered the years 1991-1994 and was based on extensive evaluation of the policies, procedures and statistics regarding admissions. In addition, in-depth interviews with faculty, staff and Admissions

Committee members were conducted. Since 1991, 24 minority students have been accepted and 17 have enrolled and are completing their studies. Of the almost 1,000 applicants to the school during those years, a total of 84 were minority students.

Nevada's medical school is active in Project 3000 by 2000, a nationwide effort by medical schools to double the number of minority medical students from 1,500 to 3,000 by the year 2000. The University of Nevada School of Medicine's recruitment programs include a summer one-week residential program for high school minority students; minority research apprenticeship programs; ongoing partnerships with Hug High School in Reno and Clark High School in Las Vegas which include a mentor program for minority students; and the Subcommittee on Minority Student Affairs - a group of minority physicians that advise the school on minority applicants and recruitment and retention of minority students.

Tyree Carr, M.D., chairman of the subcommittee, said he believes the school is committed to increasing the number of minority medical students. "This finding is evidence that the efforts of the subcommittee and medical school faculty and staff are working," Dr. Carr said. "I am proud to be part of a school that is working hard to address this complicated issue."

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