

A PHILLIPS ACADEMY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Mathematics and Science for Minority Students

(ms)²

(MS)² eNews - Winter 2025

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Eliot B. Sykes, PhD, LICSW
(he/him)
Director of (MS)²

Program Updates

We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond.

- Gwendolyn Brooks

I start with this quote from Gwendolyn Brooks as a follow-up from my fall email. As winter settles in, we prepare for the change in presidential administrations, and I read news reports of an increase in loneliness and estrangement within society, I want to invite y'all to check in on your roommate, bestie, and younger/older sibling from (MS)². I continuously circle back to the (MS)² community because each and every time I have the privilege of interacting with alums of the program, I am touched by the stories I hear including many offers and statements about wanting to give back to the program. This past fall, I've had the opportunity to connect with alums via the (Re)Connect Zoom in October, the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, applicant webinars, and

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attempt to show the love that so many of you share towards the program, back to each and every one of you. Thank you!

Shifting gears...from the standpoint of the program, we wrapped up our recruitment “season” with our last information session occurring on Thursday, 19 December at Lowell High School in Lowell, MA. We conducted a mixture of online and in person information sessions all fall. I had the opportunity to visit 5 schools in Massachusetts, held 3 weekend webinars, and conducted 4 webinars with individual schools. My favorite information sessions were the ones when I was joined by a current scholar and/or alum who shared their experiences, challenges, and benefits from participating in (MS)². *Wanna help with student recruitment in Fall 2025?* Let us know!

Ms2@andover.edu

Lastly, we’ve got application reading coming up! This is always an exciting time for me/us as I get to connect with more alums (who volunteer to read applications) and as one alum put it, *“It was enjoyable and so encouraging to see that we have a bright future as a nation in these talented kids.”* Application reading starts on 20 January, so perfect timing to see how bright the future is now! Also, this year we’ve got over 20 alums signed up to help us read applications!

Lastly, lastly, (MS)²’s 50th Anniversary will be here sooner than you know it. **SAVE THESE DATES: July 9-11, 2027!!!** The 50th Anniversary Planning Committee has already begun meeting. *Would you like to help us out with marketing, logistics, food selection and/or more?* Reach out to ms2@andover.edu today!



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Scholar Spotlight

Our Scholar Highlight this quarter features **Dr. Naomi Young, class of 1997**.

A native of Sawmill, Arizona, Dr. Young attended Window Rock High School where she learned about the (MS)² program. Dr. Young reflected:

"(MS)² provided me with my first minority physician mentors and committed me to my first step toward a career in medicine. It instilled in me the greatest confidence—not only in math and science, but in life. Through (MS)², I learned to represent myself, my family, and my American Indian people."

Dr. Young went on to receive a B.S. in Molecular Biology from the University of Arizona, her medical degree from the University of Arizona College of Medicine, and completed her residency with the Banner University Medical Center at the South Campus Family Residency Program in Tucson. When asked why she choose a health professional career, Dr. Young shared:

"When I was a child I was riding my bike and my leg was bitten by a rez (reservation) dog. I spent hours in the IHS ER waiting room crying and wondering, 'Why does it take so long?' My mother comforted me and said, 'The doctors are busy and they have a lot of people to see shiyazhi (my little one). There aren't enough doctors.' So with my pony tail, a baseball cap and an ice pack on my leg, I told my mom, 'I want to be a doctor so I can help.' Little did I know how true those words would be and how that visit to the emergency room would shape my life and goals. Thus, in high school I fell in love with science, in college I was mentored by American Indian physicians, and as a graduate student I broadened my perspective of medicine to include health policy. Thus, with deeply rooted motivation I want to be a Navajo physician practicing at home on the Navajo reservation."

Since 2016, Dr. Naomi Young has been doing just that. Dr. Young has worked as a family medicine physician at Tséhootsoóí Medical Center while also fulfilling her leadership roles, including chief of staff, director of medical services, and interim chief medical officer at TMC. Most recently, Dr. Young was selected as CEO of the Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board. According to the [Navajo Times](#) (1.3.2025), Dr. Young "possesses extensive experience in health care leadership and demonstrates a profound commitment to serving our local communities. As CEO, Dr. Young will oversee all operations of the Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board Inc., ensuring the delivery of high-quality health care services to our communities."

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Photo: Courtesy of Fort Defiance Indian Hospital

Get Involved

Finalist Interviews/Admitted Scholar Regional Gatherings

- Dr. Sykes will be traveling to Arizona, Boston, Chicago, Fort Worth, Memphis, and New Mexico between mid-February and the end of March to conduct finalist interviews. If you'd like to join Dr. Sykes for finalist interviews or meet up with him for coffee/conversation, please email ms2@andover.edu with your preferred city.
- The incoming cohort of (MS)² first year scholars will receive their admission notification emails the first weekend in April. We'd like to invite them and their families to meet current scholars and alumni in their respective region. *Would you be willing to host an informal gathering in early May or early June to welcome them?* This does not have to be a formal event. Past "welcome events" have included coffee shop meet ups, backward BBOs, museum tours, and college campus visits.

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Support (MS)²

Fun fact: Did you know that gifts and donations from (MS)² alumni fully sponsored 7 scholars this past summer!*

In 2024 more than 90 (MS)² alumni made a lasting difference for the next generation. By giving back, you help ensure access to education, caring support, and success for today's scholars.

Your alumni network continues to grow and expand its impact. Join fellow alumni in creating lasting impact and fostering excellence. Every gift, big or small, helps us pay it ahead—donate today!

*The cost to provide our intensive, residential program on the PA campus and wrap-around college counseling is \$8,000.

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