

NIH THE SEARCH FOR HEALTH
 A REPORT FROM
 THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
 BETHESDA, MARYLAND

HEALTH CAREERS

Third of a four-part series

Steady Gains Made by Minorities

Transporting 30 Black college students over 100 miles in Mississippi to receive training is one way the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) is moving more minority students down the road to health careers. This

daily migration is part of HOP, (Training Health Occupation Potentials) at Mississippi Valley State College at Itta Bena, an HEW project attempting to alleviate the scarcity of minorities in health occupations.

The project prepares students for health careers and graduates for practice in disadvantaged areas. Emphasis is on pharmacy, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, public health, nursing, medical technology, dental hygiene, physical therapy, and sanitation.

Of 130 HOP students, 30 are bused daily, over 100 miles to receive tutoring, summer sessions and special training, if they have completed academic requirements but need special assistance to enter health professions schools. Such efforts are being attempted to aid several minorities.

While, one of every 560 white Americans becomes a physician; among Blacks, it is one in 3,800. In 1970, when Blacks numbered 11 percent of the nation's population, only 2.2 percent of the nation's physicians were Black. Currently there are only 43 known Indian physicians in the entire United States and only six known Indian dentists; in fact, few Indians anywhere in the health professions.

Now, HEW has programs trying unusual approaches to health manpower training for



GLOBAL PROJECT . . . Scientist Elmer Christensen (right) points to last photographic piece that completed the first photomosaic globe of Mars in unique planetary jigsaw assembled at Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Looking on is Edwin (Ted) Pounder, manager of the Mariner 9 Mars project at JPL. The 4-foot globe — one of the three Martian photospheres being painstakingly fashioned at JPL — was mapped entirely from more than 1,500 pictures returned by Mariner 9 from the spacecraft's orbit around Mars. The first globe will be on display at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Washington, D.C. The 6-foot globe in the background will be on display later this year at JPL.

minority groups. Its office of Health Manpower Opportunity, Bureau of Health Resources Development awarded 42 grants totaling over \$5 million to schools to increase minority members in health professions.

Harvard is one school that received a grant to help raise the proportion of minorities in the health professions. Harvard Health Careers Summer Program admitted 150 minority students this year for tutoring, training in hospitals, and formal pre-med classwork. The

students include 90 Blacks, 20 Chicanos, 20 Puerto Ricans, and 20 Indians. Participating are disadvantaged minority students attending minority colleges, who are aiming for specific health occupations. One element in selecting the students is an essay they submit on their interest in health occupations.

The American Foundation for Negro Affairs (AFNA), a nonprofit organization in Philadelphia, (Pa.) received a grant to help initiate a program

to increase minorities in health professions. AFNA's project has four phases.

Phase I tries to create awareness of health careers and recruit minority high school students to the health professions.

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