June, 2019

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the Downstate Family!

By now, your student has received an e-mail inviting them to attend our Twenty-Fifth Annual “White Coat Ceremony” which will celebrate the entrance of the Class of 2023 as apprentices into the profession of medicine. Started by Dr. Arnold Gold, the White Coat Ceremony is: “designed to clarify that a physician’s responsibility is not only to take care of patients, but also to care for patients. It encourages the students to enter into a psychological contract in which they accept the obligations inherent in the practice of medicine: to be excellent in science, to be compassionate, and to lead lives of uprightness and honor.” (from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation) We hope that you and your family members will be able to attend the ceremony. The e-mail sent to your student contained a link for the student to register their guests for tickets to the ceremony as well as to order their White Coat.

In addition to the White Coat Ceremony, the following additional sessions might also be of interest to you!

**Parents and Family Members Orientation Meeting** (11:00 am, Thursday, August 8)
On the same day as the White Coat Ceremony, the College of Medicine will be hosting an information session about the first year of medical school, for parents and family members of all entering students, at 11:00 a.m.

**Spouse/Significant Other/Spouse Equivalent Meeting** (11:00 am, Thursday, August 8)
On the same day as the White Coat Ceremony, medical school couples will host a meeting at 11:00 a.m. to describe what might be expected during the first year of medical school and beyond.

**SUNY Downstate Parent Listserv**
Sign up for our SUNY Downstate Parent Listserv where we will occasionally e-mail you with information of interest to SUNY Downstate Parents. You can access the listserv signup on-line here:
[http://www.downstate.edu/parentlist](http://www.downstate.edu/parentlist)

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Student Affairs Office by telephone 718 270-2187; or send an email to studentaffairs@downstate.edu. We look forward to meeting you in August!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Putman, Ed.D.
Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs