

Student Led Advocacy Initiative

Raising Awareness of the Importance of Provider Status to Patients, Practitioners, and Students
Northest Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) College of Pharmacy

WHAT WE DID:

Objective:

To engage student pharmacist membership in grassroots advocacy and bring our university community together to support pharmacy provider status.

Plan:

January: Our chapter invited ASHP's Joe Hill and Nick Gentile to provide a grassroots advocacy webinar for student pharmacists and faculty at NEOMED.

February: Inspired by the webinar, three of our members committed to make the trip to Washington, DC to attend the Advocacy Training and meet with legislators and their staff.

March: As part of our PPMI week, we created a Student Led Advocacy Training session, where two of our Advocacy Training attendees presented on the importance of advocacy and their experiences talking with legislators. We then wrote group letters that were signed by large numbers of student pharmacists and sent them to key legislators asking for their support and inviting them to come to NEOMED to learn more about how pharmacists provide care. We also created a Provider Status Wall, 8' tall x 12' wide, which was unveiled during PPMI week. We publicized it, inviting students, faculty, and staff from both our College of Pharmacy and College of Medicine to sign it with reasons to support pharmacist provider status.

Outcome:

SSHP invited other student pharmacist organizations to come sign the wall and support provider status and build a coalition with us, to mirror the national coalition. At NEOMED, Rho Chi, APhA, NCPA, Kappa Psi and PLS joined SSHP in an alliance to support provider status. The wall continued to be displayed at various locations on campus for many weeks, along with posters detailing information on how pharmacists provide care for patients and the legislation introduced in the U.S. house and senate. Many reasons to support provider status were contributed by faculty, staff and student pharmacists.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Spread the word about the importance of advocacy and pharmacist provider status.
- Invite ASHP representatives to give a presentation to your school about advocacy.
- Send members of your student society to the ASHP Advocacy Training February 1-2, 2016; find out about our members' experiences via their blog at <http://connect.ashp.org/browse/blogs/blogviewer?BlogKey=d2a8625c-2b3d-4a0e-8a65-0040afa22bdc&tab=recentcommunityblogsdashboard>.
- Invite those attendees to share their experiences at a meeting and call others to action.
- Hold a letter writing session.
- Elect or Appoint a Policy/Legislative Chair.
- Create your own Provider Status Wall. See our blog for instructions at <http://connect.ashp.org/browse/blogs/blogviewer?BlogKey=0959358e-f1cf-4da3-aa23-1b6e0c325e06&tab=recentcommunityblogsdashboard>.

Questions? Contact NEOMED SSHP at sshp@neomed.edu.