

Crain's

NYC Health + Hospitals and St. George's University Expand CityDoctors Program with \$3M Investment

By: Jacqueline Neber

New York City Health + Hospitals and St. George's University have expanded their CityDoctors partnership program for physicians.

The expansion, announced last week, will allow three more students to receive full tuition medical school scholarships to the St. George's University School of Medicine, bringing the number from 12 to 15. Under the stipulations of the scholarship, upon completing their clinical training, students will come back to the city and give one year of service to H+H for every year their education was funded through the scholarship.

"We want to make sure that there's opportunities for New York City residents to come back and practice here. Diversifying the health system is extremely important both to us at [St. George's and H+H]," said Evan Cobb, the university's director of communications and public relations. "The doctor profession is where students of color and students of different kinds of backgrounds are underrepresented. And so you want to make some steps towards improving that."

In addition, the expansion creates 100 scholarships for H+H employees to pursue master's degrees in public health through St. George's.

According to Cobb, the scholarships are valued at approximately \$300,000 each, and each scholarship for H+H employees is approximately \$24,000—\$600 per credit for about 40 credits, with some programs having different credit totals. That brings the total value of the expansion to more than \$3 million in investments provided by St. George's.

H+H/Kings County, H+H/Coney Island, H+H/Elmhurst, H+H/Woodhull, H+H/Metropolitan and H+H/Lincoln participate in the CityDoctors program, which began in 2012.

St. George's University is based in Grenada, in the West Indies. Students complete their first years of basic sciences in Grenada, then can go to about 75 hospitals throughout the U.S. for clinical training.

To participate in the CityDoctors program at H+H, a student must be a first-time incoming St. George's student and a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. The student must meet one of three criteria: being a city resident of five or more years, graduating from a high school within the city, or being a full-time H+H employee or having a relative who has worked at the health system for at least five years.