

University of Washington School of Medicine

Targeted Rural and Underserved Track (TRUST)

Shelton, WA

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Greetings Shelton!

Hello my name is Joseph Martinez. I am the E13 TRUST student for Shelton, Washington. I am very excited about this opportunity and since I will become more familiar with your community I wanted to share a little information about myself. First, I am a transplant to Washington state having grown up in Salt Lake City, Utah where I attended Cottonwood High School and the University of Utah, obtaining my undergraduate degree in Anthropology, and a master of Public Health. Additionally, I have been a Family Practice Physician Assistant for the last 13 years having worked in Alaska, Salt Lake City, Honduras (as a volunteer), and Bremerton, Washington. It was while in Bremerton that I fell in love with Washington State. Throughout my undergraduate and professional career it has been my goal to work with medically underserved populations. However, the interest in medicine really started with my family. Both my parents are from Honduras, Central America which is the sixth poorest country in Latin America. Their experiences as children have always been an impetus for me personally as I have pursued my medical interests. Today, my own two children and fiancé have inspired me to further my dreams. My friends have asked me why after being a physician assistant for such a lengthy time would I want to pursue a doctoral degree in medicine? The simple answer is that medicine is the only thing that I have ever wanted to pursue and becoming a physician will further deepen that knowledge. Additionally, the love of education was instilled in me by my parents and I want to continue that with my own children. In fact, as I communicate with patients I advocate the very same principle of looking for the best in the person to facilitate their improved health. As a physician I am unsure of what type of specialty I would enjoy but I am currently leaning towards internal medicine and I always have the medically underserved in mind. I look forward to meeting and working with you as I begin this next chapter in my life.

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