

EMMA ZAVALA-SUAREZ

WWAMI
TRUST
UW MEDICINE

Targeted Rural Underserved Track

Moses Lake, Washington

Entering Class of 2014

TRUST seeks to provide a continuous connection between rural, small city underserved communities, medical education, and health professionals in our region. Our goal is to create a full-circle pipeline by guiding qualified students through a special curriculum that connects continuity communities in WWAMI to the University of Washington School of Medicine and its network of affiliated residency programs in an effort to help meet the workforce needs of the region.

¡Hola! I am really excited to begin my medical education and learning from the Moses Lake community while joining the University of Washington School of Medicine as a TRUST scholar.

I come to you with a background in education and law. Originally from México, I immigrated to this country as a child; we lived in Los Angeles and Riverside Counties in California, and found our home in the Pacific Northwest after laboring in the berry fields of Lynden and Everson, Washington. Upon graduating from high school, I attended Whitman College in Walla Walla. At Whitman, I majored in Latin American Studies and minored in Education. I received my high school teacher certificate and had the privilege of teaching in Walla Walla, Lynden, and Nooksack School Districts, plus I did a one-year stint at Yunnan University in Kunming, Yunnan, Peoples Republic of China. After my short teaching career (mostly a built-in break before graduate school), I completed my Juris Doctorate at the University of Washington School of Law, and practiced law in Seattle for a few years before discovering my calling in medicine. Once I switched gears to focus on health, I worked in health research and policy, and most recently, I worked at The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation where I supported the Global Health team as an Officer in Grants and Contracts Management.

I am passionate about creating positive social change, building health equity and access, and working with underserved populations. For many years, I have had the honor of working in the social justice movement and have supported grassroots efforts to build equity through various efforts, including serving as a board member for numerous nonprofit community, legal, and health organizations that serve the poor and migrant populations in Washington State and around the country

When I am not busy volunteering or working, I enjoy spending time with my family. I am the fourth daughter in a family of eight. I feel blessed that my family, which has grown to include several amazing nieces and nephews, keeps me grounded and focused on the important things in life. I also enjoy reading books and keeping up on current events, eating good food, jogging (really slow), hiking, and swimming. While completing my pre-med postbac program in Bozeman, MT, I also discovered the wonder of snow activities and seize any opportunity to snowshoe and ski, though the latter I mostly pretend that I can.

I look forward to meeting my new Moses Lake community and building lasting relationships and friendships. *¡Hasta pronto!* Emma



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<http://depts.washington.edu/fammed/education/programs/trust>