

# JOHN T. WOLFE AWARD

## STUDENT OF THE YEAR: KRISTEN CONCHA-MOORE

Kirsten Concha-Moore, a member of the Taos and Jemez Pueblo tribes from northern New Mexico, was raised on the Taos Pueblo reservation and was taught by her elders at an early age about the importance of caring for her family and tribal community and maintaining her cultural heritage. Growing up, Kirsten used the Indian Health Service (IHS) as a main source for primary health care. As she grew older, she became aware of the many health issues that affected her tribe and American Indians across the country. From her experiences as a young girl, she was inspired to become a physician so that she could improve the health of her American Indian community. In 2012, Kirsten graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a degree in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology. Now, as a third year medical student at the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson (UACOM-T), she is still dedicated to and passionate about improving the health of American Indians, with a particular interest in increasing the number of American Indian students pursuing careers in health care. In her first year of medical school, Kirsten was nominated to become a voting member of the College of Medicine's admissions committee. She felt it was important as an American Indian woman to share her perspective and understanding of the challenges underrepresented minority (URM) students face in the medical school admissions process. She worked closely with the UACOM Office of Diversity in outreach, recruitment, and support for URM students. She has served as the West Coast regional representative and is current Secretary for the Association of Native American Medical Students (ANAMS) and helped reinstate a local ANAMS chapter at the UACOM-T. She has also been involved with the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) since



her premedical years and credits much of her success to the incredible support and mentorship from the Native physicians who have taken her under their wing. Kirsten is part of the Rural Health Professions Program at the UACOM-T, where she has worked on the Navajo Nation in obstetrics and gynecology and

will be returning to IHS facilities for many of her third year rotations. She is very interested in health policy and was awarded the Native Graduate Health Fellowship in 2015 from the National Congress of American Indians and traveled to Washington, D.C., to learn about tribal health policy. From her efforts, the UACOM-T has twice awarded Kirsten with the Diversity Leadership Award and the Native American Student Affairs organization at the University of Arizona awarded her the Outstanding Graduate Service Award. She was one of five medical students across the country to be awarded the Herbert W. Nickens Medical Student Scholarship/Award by the Association of American

Medical Colleges last year in Seattle, WA for her leadership efforts to eliminate inequities in medical education and health care and her demonstrated leadership efforts in addressing educational, societal, and health care needs of racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. Kirsten most recently completed a Post-Sophomore Fellowship in the Department of Pathology at the University of Arizona and recently returned from a two month Underrepresented Minority Elective in Pathology at Johns Hopkins University. She is pursuing vascular surgery research and is now beginning her third year clerkship rotations. She is still undecided about which specialty she will choose; however, she is confident that she will continue her work in helping to improve American Indian health.