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The Della Keats program provides a bridge to college and health careers for talented Alaska high school students from underserved and underrepresented populations, nurtures intellectual curiosity and introduces Alaska's future health professionals to exciting, high-demand fields.

### DEEP ROOTS

A prominent Iñupiaq traditional healer from Kotzebue inspired the Della Keats program, which extends a hand to talented pre-college students—particularly students from Alaska Native or rural Alaska backgrounds who understand the needs specific to their communities. The program gives them an insider perspective on future health-care careers. Twelve years ago, the Della Keats program merged with a closely related program, U-DOC, which also helped pre-college students prepare for medical careers. The Alaska WWAMI School of Medical Education—Alaska's medical school—runs this merged program. Students in it can explore careers in medicine, medical research, nursing and public health.

### BY THE NUMBERS

The Della Keats program served 216 high school students between 2002 and 2013, ticular



rural backgrounds receive  
highest priority for admission.

