



June 15, 2023

Hello Entering Class of 2023,

I am so excited to welcome you to the Pritzker School of Medicine!! I met several of you during revisit weekend, but allow me to introduce myself again. My name is Dayle Davenport, and I am your Associate Dean for Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (HEDI). I specialize in Emergency Medicine and completed my residency here at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

I just returned to the University of Chicago in February to serve as the Associate Dean of HEDI so you will be my first entering class. I can't wait to get to know all of you. My primary role here is to engage all members of our Pritzker student community, while recognizing that some groups have been historically underrepresented or marginalized in the medical profession and may need additional support. I hope that we will work together to foster a supportive academic environment and remove barriers to belonging. I will also be the Course Director for one of your first classes in medical school, the Health Equity, Advocacy, and Anti-racism Course, where you will learn more about the disparities that exist within the healthcare field and how we can work to address them. In August, my office will host a HEDI welcome reception that I hope you will attend.

Prior to meeting in August, I want to tell you a little bit about myself. I was born in Brooklyn, New York, and spent most of my life in the Northeast. I attended the University of Pennsylvania for undergrad and took two gap years to work at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center until I attended Harvard Medical School. I completed my residency in Emergency Medicine here at the University of Chicago and then spent the last 14 years on the West Side of Chicago at Rush University Medical Center. I live in Little Italy/West Loop with my two children, Miles (11) and Mia (8). You'll get to know them throughout your time at Pritzker. They love meeting "baby doctors" (their words, not mine).

Congratulations on beginning your journey into medicine. I know the amount of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice it took to get to this point. I hope you have a great summer, and I can't wait to welcome you to Chicago. It's a fun city (not as good as NYC, but what is?). You will love your time here. I was told the orientation theme is Pritzker-Palooza, which is fitting because summertime in Chicago is known for great concerts. Between July 22 and July 29, I am headed to see Beyonce, Ed Sheeran, and Jill Scott.

See you in August!!

**Dayle Davenport, MD FACEP**

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