The Preeminence of Context in Starting a Socially Accountable Medical School: the Myth of the Blank Slate
The Context of the Institution

- Anchored by the founding call of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

- Heritage of health professional education
The Context of the Tenets of Osteopathic Medicine

- The person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.

- The body can self-regulate, self-heal, and maintain itself in health.

- Structure and function are interrelated.

- Rational treatment is based on the above 3 principles.
Congruence of UIW’s Mission and Osteopathic Philosophy

- Educational excellence in the context of faith
- Life-long learning
- Development of the whole person.
- The search for and communication of truth.
- Innovation serving people’s spiritual and material needs.
- Programs with local and global perspective and emphasis on social justice and community service.
The Context of Geography and Demography

- 68% of the service region’s population resides in a MUA/P; compared to 30% statewide
- 57% of Texas’ underserved population reside in the service region
Context of Location of Education
The Context of Medical Education Innovation

The Pillars of Curriculum Reform from the Carnegie Foundation’s *Educating Physicians: A Call for Reform of Medical School and Residency*

- Standardization/Individualization
- Integration of formal knowledge and clinical experience
- Development of habits of inquiry and innovation
- Focus on professional identity formation
The Curricular Context

- Essential applied biomedical science presented in **patient-centered clinical context**
- Osteopathic principles, EBM, empathic communication skills & humanistic/justice-oriented dimensions of medicine, integrated across all four years
- **Participatory early clinical experiences** aid in professional identity formation through focused mentorship.
- Students serve local underserved communities and provide **culturally responsive care to diverse populations**.
- Community-based medical education.
Context of the Individuals and Partners

- Community stakeholders
- Faculty
- Other medical schools
- Undergraduate and medical students
- Administrators
- University board members
- Donors
“If the 20th century was about taking the world apart, the 21st is about thinking it back together again.”

-Martha Gaines, JD

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