

The Third Pillar of Medical Honor Society Recognition

Alpha Omega Alpha recognizes scholarship. Gold Humanism recognizes compassion. Aequitas Health recognizes action.

What Is Aequitas Health?

A 501(c)(3) national medical honor society recognizing medical students who complete community health projects. Fellows don't join a list — they build something. Every fellow completes a health-focused project addressing a real need in a real community: free clinics, vision screening programs, street medicine outreach, telehealth infrastructure. Fellow work is published in a peer-reviewed journal and presented at a national conference.

12 chapters across 12 states. 250+ fellows inducted since 2021. Entirely volunteer-run. Recognized with the 2023 McNulty Catalyst Award through the John P. McNulty Prize (Aspen Institute).

What a Chapter Requires from Your School

- Approval as a recognized student organization
- One faculty advisor (volunteer — 2–4 hours per semester, no compensation)
- \$100/year chapter fee (often covered by student government or departmental funds)
- No cost to students. No facilities. No additional staff. No curriculum changes.

Chapters are student-led. The national organization provides all infrastructure, branding, journal publication, and conference programming. Most chapters launch within one semester.

Is This a Political Organization?

Aequitas Health is a medical honor society. Chapters include students and faculty from across the political spectrum, united by a commitment to patients and communities. The focus is action, not advocacy. The organization does not lobby, endorse candidates, or take positions on legislation.

How Does This Benefit Your School?

Stronger residency applications. Program directors notice students who built a vision screening program serving hundreds of children — not students who joined a list. Faculty can write recommendation letters with substance.

Faculty development. Advising counts as institutional service, mentoring, and community engagement — three promotion categories from a single volunteer role.

Documented community impact. Fellow projects create tangible, publishable town-gown outcomes at zero institutional cost.

What Fellows Are Building at Peer Institutions

Tribal health infrastructure. Brandon Schonour (University of South Alabama), an enrolled citizen of the Southeastern Mvskoke Nation, partnered with his Tribal Council to secure more than \$40,000 in grant funding — including walking trails used daily by families and a telehealth building giving elders access to healthcare without leaving home.

Pediatric vision screening. Jasmine Bazinet-Phillips (University of Vermont) partnered with Champlain Valley Head Start to address transportation barriers. Before the project, only 33% of children under three reached their ophthalmology appointments. The initiative used rideshare health services to close the gap.

Street medicine. Narysse Nicolet (University of South Dakota) established healthcare outreach in Rapid City targeting the city's homeless population — 75% of whom identify as Native American — building toward a student-run clinic.

Medication adherence. Christian Henry (University of Arizona) developed a data-driven toolkit addressing medication non-adherence for migrant and Indigenous populations, including bilingual medication cards and copay assistance.

Peer Institutions

12 medical schools across 12 states — public and private, research-intensive and community-based. Chapter locations are not publicly listed to respect institutional preferences. We can connect you with faculty advisors or deans at peer institutions for a confidential conversation about the chapter experience.

Organizational Credibility

- **2023 McNulty Catalyst Award** — John P. McNulty Prize (Aspen Institute)
- Founded by Benson Hsu, MD, MBA — Bush Fellow, Aspen Health Innovators Fellow, Presidential Leadership Scholar (Class of 2026), NIH-funded researcher with 75+ peer-reviewed publications
- Peer-reviewed journal (5 volumes, 15 articles) · 3 national conferences
- Distinguished conference speakers from Penn, VA, MUSC, Vizient, UAMS, and Grapevine Health
- 2 competitive grant cycles — 7 winners, 11 distinguished finalists

"I've written countless recommendation letters. But when I write one for an Aequitas fellow, I'm not describing a student who joined something — I'm describing a student who built something. That's a different letter."

— Dr. Elizabeth Mack, Aequitas Health Chapter Faculty Advisor

Ready to Bring Aequitas to Your School?

Contact **Benson Hsu, MD, MBA** at health.equity@aequitashealth.org to schedule a 15-minute call — or visit aequitashealth.org/quick-start-guide to see the full process.