

Ingram Scholar Alumni Spotlight



JESSICA SOLOMON SANDERS, Class of 2010

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DEGREES

Bachelor of Science, Special Education, Vanderbilt University
MD, Vanderbilt University

CURRENT LOCATION

Denver, Colorado

CURRENT EMPLOYER

University of Colorado, Children's Hospital of Colorado

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Doctor

DESCRIBE YOUR CAREER PATH

My career path has allowed me to use my combined background of special education and medicine to improve access to and quality of age-appropriate, specialized healthcare for patients with developmental disabilities. I completed a six-year residency training program in

Boston, MA that included two years of pediatric residency followed by four years of Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, “NDD,” which included training in Adult and Child Neurology as well as Developmental Pediatrics. I recently became Faculty at the University of Colorado in Denver, working in both Developmental Pediatrics and Neurology. I have a particular interest in improving the transition from pediatric to adult care for patients with complex neurodevelopmental disorders.

HOW DID THE INGRAM SCHOLARS PROGRAM PREPARE YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING TODAY?

I am grateful for the Ingram Scholars Program for pushing me not only to experience meaningful service opportunities but to truly reflect on them. Between conversations with my brilliant classmates, guest speakers, and community outings, I learned through Ingram about what it means to make an impact on, and with, a community or organization. The skills to step back, evaluate, reflect, and change are invaluable assets I gained from the Ingram Scholars Program. Also, I gained confidence as a leader, as I had incredible support to move into leadership positions on boards and in the community. Having people you look up to cheer you on is an impact that cannot be overstated.

IF YOU COULD DESCRIBE THE INGRAM SCHOLARS PROGRAM IN THREE WORDS WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

Lifelong friends, community, and inspiration.

WHAT DOES THE INGRAM SCHOLAR COMMUNITY MEAN TO YOU?

It is such a rare treat to have close friends that are so diverse in life perspectives, yet so similar in passion for serving our respective communities. I really enjoy having conversations with other scholars where we come from different viewpoints and can disagree, and learn from each other. The friendships I have made, and continue to form, all over the country are so important to me.

BEST INGRAM SCHOLAR MEMORY

Freshman orientation -- playing charades and acting out silly Disney scenes with people I had never met who became some of my closest friends!

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR CURRENT SCHOLARS WHO WANT TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR INGRAM SCHOLAR EXPERIENCE?

Engage in those tough conversations; ask for feedback on your service projects; listen to older scholars' experiences. You don't have to start something in order to make a difference -- you can make a huge impact within organizations/community programs that already exist.