

What makes the incoming class unique?

00:06

So this is a great class of 180 students. They were chosen from 4000 applicants. They have a GPA of 3.76. One thing that's a bit unusual is that the percentage of women keep going up there's 104 women and 76 men as compared to our first class, when there were 33 men and three women. 15 of them are in the family medicine accelerated track, our most innovative primary care track in the country. 12 of them are doing the MD MBA. 40 students come from Texas Tech 25 come from UT Austin. But there's 46 different schools that are represented and they come from previous jobs, Marines, firefighters, missionaries, educators, beauty pageant winner, musicians, concert pianist, lots of different diverse backgrounds. So it's a group of students that we're very proud of. They have great credentials. But I will say there's also a few students who we're also proud of who applied to medical school, two or three times, never got in, kept working on their MCAT kept working on their education. And we're really proud to have them here today as well.

What is the white coat ceremony and why is it different this year?

01:45

So the white coat ceremony is intended to welcome medical students into the profession of medicine, and to make them take an oath as they put on their white coat and notice that they will always put the Patient first, that they'll take care of all patients, even those who are vulnerable or contagious or difficult that they'll begin a career of lifelong learning that they will commit themselves to being great teachers have their patients. We've learned that lately how important it is for physicians to also be teachers of the public, to have a great work ethic work ethic, and to be committed to doing their very best every day. So that's what the white coat stands for. And in the past, it's always been a great opportunity to thank family members and spouses for the sacrifices that they've made for these students. We always say if you see a turtle on a fence post, you know, it didn't get there by itself. So normally the white coat ceremony is for the family members to Who have a great deal of pride on this day. And so we want them to know even though they can't be with us today, that we know how important it is for them, as well as for their children or spouses.

Why was it important to make sure this event continued?

03:22

Well, of course, we were very disappointed that we can't do the white coat ceremony like we normally do it. But our rules to guarantee that nobody is in danger of giving getting COVID-19 is to wear masks and be six feet apart. So we couldn't have the normal white coat ceremony like we would have in an auditorium. So this was the next best thing we could come up with, that the students would drive through in their cars, and we would welcome them. We would give them their white coat. We would give them the Texas Tech stethoscope and we would congratulate them on what is essentially the first day of medical school.

How has COVID-19 changed the way the School of Medicine is training and educating students?

04:17

So for our third year and fourth year students, they are on the wards taking care of patients protecting themselves with masks and protective equipment. And so what they're doing in the third and fourth year is not that much different than what's happened in the past. except they're not taking care of COVID patients. We don't think that that's really necessary. For the first and second year students, we have to figure out how to teach them as best we can without getting them all together in a big group. So a lot of that is videotapes. A lot of that is breaking down into smaller groups, using several different classrooms for the same kind of teaching. And just using a lot of different innovative approaches. Like yesterday for the family medicine, accelerated track students, they were at home, while one of the doctors was teaching them how to suture. And at home, we sent them a suture kit and a rubber block. And they were suturing at home, watching the professor. And then the professor would look at their block and see if their suturing was good or not. And we also sent them some plastic, 3d arms and some cast making material and had them make cast at home as we taught them, how to do it. So those are some of the innovative things that we're coming up with in COVID-19.

Any advice for the incoming class?

05:56

So the traditional advice we always give students is to take one day at a time. work very, very hard. Develop an outstanding work ethic, focus on really trying to become as accomplished as possible. But nowadays, we change that a little bit we modify that a little bit to also say, take care of yourself, be careful about your own wellness, exercise, continue to stay in close touch with your parents or loved ones, or your family members. So that even though you're working very, very hard, you're taking part of your life for yourself, keeping yourself healthy. And of course now in COVID-19 to always wear a mask and to follow our advice on staying safe in the COVID-19 era.

