

The EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATOR

Fall 2025 Vol 14

Highlights

SB41 Hearing

Alumni Residency Q&A

Upcoming CE's



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California Northstate University College of Pharmacy



@CNUCOP

Faculty Editor: Dr. Tony Eid

Student Editors: John Biundo, Rondelle Jordan, Kaitlin Nunes, Sang Vuong

A Message from the Assistant Dean of Experiential Education

By: Dr. Tony Eid

I am truly delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of our Experiential Education newsletter. With great enthusiasm, I share with you some of the remarkable developments, accomplishments, and highlights within our dynamic academic community. One of the cornerstones of our success is our dedicated team, and I am honored to introduce you to the extraordinary individuals who work tirelessly behind the scenes. They are the driving force that makes our experiential education programs thrive, ensuring our students receive the best opportunities for growth and development.

This month's spotlight is on our esteemed alumni, who serve as shining examples of the potential that experiential education can unlock. Their journeys from our programs to remarkable careers are inspiring, and we take pride in their impact in their respective fields. The experiences they gained here have been instrumental in shaping their success stories. We are also excited to announce the Preceptor Awards, a recognition of our preceptors' vital role in guiding and mentoring our students during their experiential placements. These awards honor those who provide invaluable experiences to our students, ensuring they receive top-tier training and mentorship.

Community outreach remains a core tenet of our mission, and we are proud of our students' engagement in various community service projects. These initiatives demonstrate the power of experiential education in creating a sense of responsibility and instilling a spirit of giving back. Their commitment to positively impacting our local and global communities is commendable. As part of our ongoing commitment to preceptor service, we continuously work to enhance the support and resources available to our preceptors. Their contributions are immeasurable, and we are dedicated to ensuring they have the tools and training needed to excel as mentors and educators. A commitment to excellence in experiential education marks our journey forward. We will continue to strengthen our team, shine a light on our alumni's incredible achievements, recognize our preceptors' outstanding contributions, extend our hand in service to the community, and provide unwavering support to those who guide our students on their educational paths. Experiential education holds the promise of transformation, and together, we will empower our students with experiences that will serve as the foundation for a future filled with opportunity and achievement.

Thank you for your steadfast support, and I look forward to sharing more success stories, milestones, and inspiring moments in our upcoming newsletters. Lastly, I leave you all with a quote from Steven Spielberg: "The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves."



A Message from the IPPE Director of Experiential Education

By: Dr. Welly Mente

I want to extend my sincere thank you to each preceptor for your efforts and for your ongoing support and dedication to educating pharmacy students, in addition to your responsibilities at your practice site. The college recognizes the crucial role preceptors and faculty play in providing and shaping the learning opportunities and skillsets of our promising and future pharmacists. Thank you for your commitment and collaboration in hosting CNUCOP pharmacy students during experiential rotations now and in the near future.

At any time, feel free to let me know if you need any tips on orienting or re-orienting your CNUCOP rotation students to your practice site. Experience shows that efficiently orienting your student to your practice site will provide an improved rotation experience for both the student and preceptor. The college offers IPPE preceptors with a starter list of items to be reviewed with each new student, as found in the IPPE syllabus known as the Preceptor Checklist. This is a basic minimal starter list that can be expanded according to your practice site needs. Consider letting your student know upfront who to report to in your absence. Make sure to provide your practice site rules, safety protocols, rotation objectives, project due dates, and meeting times for a more detailed experience for your student. These are just some of the items that can be scheduled or prepared in advance, saving you time. Most importantly, set clear expectations and allow opportunities for the student to ask questions. Your student will appreciate this and will be happy to know.

We look forward to exploring opportunities with you to engage CNUCOP students in educational and experiential ways in order to advance the profession of pharmacy together through experiential training. If you have something you would like to teach or offer to our students, please feel free to reach out to us. Your expertise and passion for pharmacy practice can make a difference in the lives of an aspiring future pharmacists.

Before I go, we welcome you to stay connected with California Northstate University College of Pharmacy. Please let us know how we can better serve the needs of your student program. I am honored to work together with you as we advance the expertise of future pharmacy practitioners with the medication use process as well as medication and patient safety in today's evolving digital landscape. As a preceptor, there is nothing more professionally satisfying than being recognized by their students for their efforts that have made a positive impact.



Tony Joseph Eid, PharmD,
REHS, BCMTM, APH, CHC,
FACC
Assistant Dean of Experiential
Education, College of
Pharmacy
Associate Professor



Welly Mente, PharmD, FCSHP
Director of Experiential
Education - Introductory
Pharmacy Practice Education
(IPPE)
Associate Professor



Elizabeth Suarez, BS
Experiential Education
Coordinator



*Introducing
The Office of Experiential Education*

SB41 HEARING

BY: JOHN BIUNDO



What is SB41?

California Senate Bill 41 introduces sweeping reforms to regulate pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) in California, aiming to increase transparency, curb anti-competitive practices, and protect consumers from inflated drug costs. It requires all PBMs operating in California to obtain a license from the Department of Insurance by January 1, 2027. The bill prohibits spread pricing—where PBMs charge health plans more than they reimburse pharmacies—starting January 1, 2026, and mandates that 100% of manufacturer rebates be passed to health plans to benefit patients. SB41 also enforces a passthrough pricing model and bans discriminatory practices against non-affiliated pharmacies, such as steering patients toward PBM-owned providers. Additionally, PBMs must submit annual reports detailing drug prices, reimbursements, and rebates, with the state publishing aggregated summaries. Violations can result in penalties, and funds collected will support ongoing enforcement efforts. Overall, SB41 aims to protect consumers, promote fairness among pharmacies, and rein in rising drug costs through stronger oversight of PBMs.

Leading the Way!

On the day of the hearing, numerous pharmacists from California gathered at the Capitol for a rally in support of the bill. Some notable speeches came from Dr. Sonya Frausto (Owner of Ten Acres Pharmacy, pictured to the left) and Dr. Clint Hopkins (Owner of Pucci's Pharmacy, not pictured), who spoke about the hardships of owning an independent pharmacy. Both had agreed that PBMs are underpaying for their services of filling prescriptions for their patients. Not only are independent pharmacies scrambling to remain viable, but big-box stores like CVS, Walgreens, and Rite Aid are no better. Many pharmacies across the nation are struggling to remain open. Besides active pharmacists being at the rally and hearing many students from different pharmacy schools come out to support the bill as well. It was a great opportunity for students to see and learn what their voices as pharmacists are capable of doing. At the hearing, again, Dr. Sonya Frausto and Dr. Clint Hopkins were sitting in the front with California Senator Scott Wiener to speak out in favor of the bill. After the supporting party spoke, those at the hearing were able to state that they were in favor of the bill. All pharmacists, students, and practitioners alike rose to show their support for the bill and agree that something needs to change for the practice of pharmacy to be salvageable.



Residency Alumni

BY: DR. AMY ABRAM - CLASS OF 2025

PGY1 RESIDENT PHARMACIST

KAISER PERMANENTE - SACRAMENTO VALLEY AREA



What initially inspired you to pursue a career in pharmacy?

I pursued pharmacy because I liked how pharmacists have extensive knowledge and expertise in disease states, treatments modalities, and appropriate differential selection of medications, making them well-rounded health care professionals.

How did your time as a pharmacy student prepare you for your current role as a pharmacist?

My time as a pharmacy student prepared me for my current role as a pharmacist by providing me with opportunities to take on leadership early on. In addition to the clinical knowledge and patient care skills I gained through coursework and rotations, I took on responsibilities that required me to guide, support, and collaborate with others. Whether it was leading group projects, mentoring younger students, or taking initiative during rotations to streamline workflows, those experiences taught me how to organize tasks, delegate effectively, and build trust within a team. Being involved in different leadership opportunities has helped me prepare for my current role as a PGY1 resident at Kaiser Permanente. It taught me how to multitask, communicate with others, and develop time management skills.





What specific area of pharmacy practice are you currently working in, and why did you choose this specialization?

I am currently working in a DOAC clinic that aims to increase efficacy of therapy, decrease risk of adverse events, and improve patient safety by increasing lab testing. While on the outpatient side, I am more focused in the leadership and management aspect in running a pharmacy.

Are there any projects that you're currently involved in or excited about?

I am currently collaborating with other Kappa Psi residents on a project about new drug research. I will continue to research it throughout the year.

What is the most rewarding aspect of being a pharmacist, and how does it align with your initial motivations for pursuing this career?

For me, the most rewarding aspect is being able to treat patients and see their health improve as we work with them. I've always wanted to be in healthcare and becoming a resident for Kaiser has helped me get closer to my goals of becoming a clinical pharmacist.



What is your current goal and aspirations after completing residency?

My goal is to become a trained clinical pharmacist from residency that will boost my confidence in making clinical judgements and develop these skills to treat patients with high quality care

Class of 2026 APPE Voices: Wins, Wisdom & What's Next



GIANG TRAN

APPE rotations have given me invaluable clinical and operational insight into how a hospital truly functions. I've had the chance to see uncommon conditions such as botulism, Guillain-Barré syndrome, myasthenia gravis, C.Diff, MDR infections, and many more. I was even allowed to observe certain operations on patients! I've also been able to make meaningful interventions and contribute via in-services while working alongside physicians, nurses, PT/OT, telemetry, and other members of the care team. For those heading into APPEs, be ready to hit the ground running. Large hospital systems will challenge you and continuously test your core knowledge. It can feel overwhelming at times, but remember—pressure creates diamonds. Good luck! Because you all will need it.



HIEU HUYNH

My APPE rotations are going well! One of the biggest "wins" so far has been the opportunity to rotate at Napa State Hospital. It's a very unique experience that allows me to observe a wide range of treatment options for psychiatric disorders. All of my experiences have strengthened my interest in the more specialized areas of pharmacy outside of hospital pharmacy and to pursue a residency after graduation. For those preparing for your APPEs, I encourage you to explore some of the more unique areas of pharmacy; you may not have the chance to do so after you graduate.



SANG VUONG

Initially, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after completing pharmacy school. APPE rotations gave me an opportunity to learn more about pharmacy outside the classroom. Working in an Emergency medicine department during my rotation made me realize the importance of the pharmacy's role in medication interventions. My advice for those preparing for APPEs is to always communicate with your preceptor to ensure you are on the right track. While it might be a scary and nerve-racking time, it will also be filled with growth and learning. Never settle for less when choosing your APPE rotations.



THERESA XIONG

My rotation has been both challenging and rewarding. Each day, I've had the opportunity to build on my knowledge and skills by applying them to real-life situations. Working with complex patients has pushed me to take a holistic approach, ensuring that my interventions optimize outcomes, even when they're not first-line recommendations. Some of my biggest accomplishments so far include adjusting medications based on renal function, de-escalating antibiotic regimens, and recommending evidence-based therapies such as initiating a high-intensity statin in patients with ASCVD. My advice to others is to approach every rotation with an open mind and a genuine desire to learn. The time and effort you invest directly translate into the knowledge and growth you gain, ultimately shaping you into a better pharmacist every day.



RONDELLE JORDAN

I think APPEs are going great so far, I haven't received an offer from any of my APPE sites but I have 4 more to go so who knows. I also think it's really important to appreciate the little wins. APPEs can be very labor, energy and brain intensive work and sometimes celebrating the little things is necessary and goes a long way. For example, getting through a rough day, fitting in a short workout, completing an APPE. My only advice to students getting ready to go through APPEs would be to study hard, keep going over the material, and make sure you make time to take care of yourself.

PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Mercy General Hospital IPPE Site of The Year

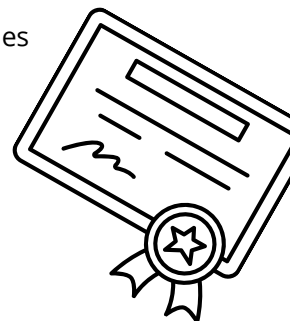
Here's what our students said:

"The preceptors created a positive learning environment by being helpful, understanding, and encouraging critical thinking. They provided valuable teaching and insight into different aspects of pharmacy practice, making them an excellent mentor and resource for learning, particularly in the inpatient setting."

"I truly enjoyed how welcoming and insightful the preceptors at this location are. They're truly invested in helping me learn more about hospital pharmacy."

"This IPPE site provided clear expectations, encouraged critical thinking and clinical growth, and fostered a supportive and welcoming learning environment."

"This IPPE site was supportive and dynamic, with staff balancing their responsibilities while still taking time to check in, answer questions, and provide helpful feedback."



PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Dr. Truong Huynh
Hemet Global Medical Center
APPE Preceptor of The Year

Here's what our students said:

"Dr. Huynh has been an outstanding preceptor, combining expertise with a personal touch. His deep knowledge of infectious diseases and clinical pharmacy created a strong foundation for my learning. He is dedicated to teaching, offering valuable lectures, one-on-one guidance, and making complex concepts easy to understand. Approachable and always willing to help, he involves students in daily rounds, ICU treatment decisions, and lab culture reviews, which sharpened my clinical reasoning and decision-making skills. His constructive feedback, supportive environment, and involvement in the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) highlight his commitment to evidence-based care and student growth. Overall, his mentorship made this rotation highly educational and personally rewarding."

"Dr. Huynh's performance as a preceptor has been exemplary. His passion for teaching and patient care is evident in his daily interactions and commitment to student development. He ensures that students not only understand the material but also gain confidence in applying it to real-world practice. His approachable and encouraging demeanor, along with his ability to balance clinical responsibilities and teaching, makes him an outstanding mentor. Overall, he provided a rich and inspiring learning experience."

C.O 2028 White Coat Ceremony

By: Dr. Tiffany-Jade Kreys, PharmD, BCPP
Assistant Dean of Student Affairs & Admissions

On Saturday, September 6th, the College of Pharmacy (COP) officially welcomed our second cohort of pharmacy students into the accelerated three-year Doctor of Pharmacy program. The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. William Giang, Director of Pharmacy at Dignity Health- Mercy San Juan Medical Center, who shared his personal journey about the path he has taken to become a successful pharmacist. Dr. Gary Takher, Director of the Clinical Value & Outcomes team at AstraZeneca, shared a message with the students on behalf of the COP alumni body, which now consists of over 1600 graduates. Dr. Takher was a member of the first graduating class from the College of Pharmacy, the Class of 2012, and serves as a prime example of the success of our graduates and their impact on healthcare today. Dr. Justin Ko, a 2018 alumnus of the Class of 2018 and Pharmacy Operations Specialist in Informatics at Kaiser Permanente, led the students in reciting the Pledge of Professionalism, which highlights the ethical standards upheld by those in the profession of pharmacy. The distinguished coaters for the event included our faculty, Dr. Suzanne Clark and Dr. Olivia Phung, and our alumni and preceptors, Dr. Gary Takher, Dr. Justin Ko, and Dr. Joshua Chu (Class of 2019 alumnus). A special thank you to all those who joined us to welcome our new pharmacy students into the profession of pharmacy!





Upcoming Continuing Education (CE) Courses



2025-2026 CE EVENTS

Event: Integrative Medicine and Brain Health

Date: October 12, 2025

Time: 7:30AM – 5:00PM

CE Credit: 7.25 CME AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

Venue: Alta Bates Medical Center, Berkeley CA

[Purchase tickets here](#)

Learn more here: <https://tinyurl.com/3enxju99>

Event: Capital Leadership Forum: Exploring Pharmacist Roles in Preventative Healthcare

Date: November 12, 2025

Time: 6:00PM – 7:30PM

Panelists:

- Ms. Lucille P. Accetta, RPh, MPH, MBA, Senior V.P. Chief Pharmacy Officer and Head of CVS Specialty Operations at CVS Health
- Mr. Michael Baxter, V.P of Government Affairs, American Pharmacists Association (APhA)
- Leticia Moczygemba, PharmD, PhD, FAPhA, Professor of Health Outcomes, Sr. Centennial Fellow, Health Outcomes Division, University of Texas College of Pharmacy

Request an invitation to register:

<https://forms.office.com/r/PrP5m4ckeA>

Event: CNU Preceptors Conference

Date: January 17, 2026

Time: 8:45AM to 12:00PM

Venue: Online

Topics:

- ACPE Updates
- Transition to Three-Year Program
- Update to the PPCP – new 2025 standards recently released
- Building effective multi-generational teams in pharmacy practice

Request an invitation to register:

<https://forms.office.com/r/Ym8yjsrvbV>

State Board Requirement: Cultural Competency in Pharmacy

Effective January 1, 2024, for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are required to take one hour of CE training on cultural competency as part of their CE training required to renew their license. This course will fulfill that requirement. This CE renewal requirement applies to all pharmacy technicians, pharmacists and advance practice pharmacists whose expiration date is after December 31, 2023. Read more [here](#).

Online Home Study: Cultural Competency (to fulfill California Board of Pharmacy CE requirements)

- Target Audience: Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians
- No Registration Fee | Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/gHd5HZLpdr>
- Learn more about this course here: <https://tinyurl.com/4bsdm8fh>

LAST YEAR IN REVIEW

In AY2024-2025 a total of 366 pharmacy community professionals (across all activities) assembled to learn about the following topics:

- CLF- Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Pharmacy Practice
- Update on Assessment and Treatment of Dementia
- Supplements and Over the Counter Supplements and Treatments
- Pharmacists' Patient Care Process
- Risk of Suicide in 2025: Addressing Emerging Challenges in Mental Health
- Residency Symposium
- Gut-Skin Health Connection

Eighty-five (85) percent of participants indicated they were planning to make changes to their practice because of these trainings; and seventy-nine (79) percent indicated they could make the changes fairly easily or somewhat easily. Great work!



For more information regarding California Northstate University, College of Pharmacy, please visit us at pharmacy.cnsu.edu



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