

KNN DISCUSSION SERIES

The Medical Profession Through the Lens of Human Flourishing

Civic Responsibility:
Healthcare and Democracy

Audience Responses



KERN NATIONAL NETWORK
FOR CARING & CHARACTER IN MEDICINE

“What is one thing you plan to do to advance progress regarding civic responsibility in healthcare?”

- Make community with the patients you care for.
- Getting involved with a medical student or community organization that prioritizes patients/community, your passion, and finding mentors helped me in this work.
- Civic responsibility to me is being sure that each person knows that they matter—that they have value. My dedication to this is applied to one person at a time as well as helping with wider initiatives that are related to this. It is important to make bite size efforts—and not see this as an overwhelming task. Because if we look at it as too big and overwhelming, in a life that is jammed with a lot of responsibilities and pressures, it will be a deterrent. I think about the physicians against nuclear war effort—it started small with a simple premise. But it grew because of the help from many others.
- Question authority.
- I believe connecting practitioners’ values with their role in civic responsibility helps to drive involvement and reduce burnout.
- Use my voice and experience to empower those that I will provide healthcare for. Empower myself to have civic responsibility.
- Find ways in my daily routine to get uncomfortable and raise issues/discrepancies with power as I see them. Share them too with team members and learners.
- Seek out healthcare partners who are doing the work of focusing on civic responsibility and partner with them to bring resources into the primary educational world. Knowledge and accessibility to this knowledge must begin in primary school when kids are young.



“What is one thing you plan to do to advance progress regarding civic responsibility in healthcare?” (cont.)

- Provide feedback, especially when healthcare providers or systems are demonstrating civic responsibility. Also: show up!
- To dedicate more time to better understand the needs of the community around me to address injustice and optimize health.
- Support candidates for local and national office who care about the integrity of the poorest among us.
- Pay more attention to broader patterns, systems and contexts and how they influence individuals' opportunities.
- I am going to find ways to advocate for universal healthcare and other supporting programs in my community while I work on applying to medical school.
- To be brave and live outside of my privilege.
- Engage my health system to be accountable to partnering with our community to end health disparities.
- Volunteer with my local political party to help register folks to vote!
- Integrating learnings and opportunities intentionally into educational program[ming].
- Volunteering.
- Proximity.
- Vote.

