NYC colleges are promoting humanitarian work abroad

For 19-year-old Devki Bhatt (right), dedicating her time as a student to humanitarian efforts intertwines with her future career plans. As a junior, Bhatt is currently pursuing a BA/MD (pre-med) program in anthropology and health and nutrition at Brooklyn College. She is also the Brooklyn College chapter president for Global Brigades (globalbrigades.org), a worldwide, student-led global health and sustainable development organization. The nonprofit operates dental, business, architectural and medical brigades.

While she receives no academic credit or pay, “This provides the opportunity to take action in different countries and focus on preventative healthcare,” says Bhatt.

Brooklyn College’s student brigades range from a week to two weeks in length. Along with the student team, at least one US physician accompanies the brigade, as does at least one physician from each host country.

For Bhatt, the opportunity to shadow practicing doctors for days at length has yielded major lessons in both the field of medicine and compassion. Additional rewards come when those Bhatt is helping demonstrate their appreciation. “One patient invited me to her home and asked her son to pick mangoes for everyone on our brigade,” says Bhatt. “It was heartwarming.”

— Erika Pradler

Studies in kindness

For 19-year-old Devki Bhatt (right), dedicating her time as a student to humanitarian efforts intertwines with her future career plans. As a junior, Bhatt is currently pursuing a BA/MD (pre-med) program in anthropology and health and nutrition at Brooklyn College. She is also the Brooklyn College chapter president for Global Brigades (globalbrigades.org), a worldwide, student-led global health and sustainable development organization. The nonprofit operates dental, business, architectural and medical brigades.

While she receives no academic credit or pay, “This provides the opportunity to take action in different countries and focus on preventative healthcare,” says Bhatt.

Brooklyn College’s student brigades range from a week to two weeks in length. Along with the student team, at least one US physician accompanies the brigade, as does at least one physician from each host country.

For Bhatt, the opportunity to shadow practicing doctors for days at length has yielded major lessons in both the field of medicine and compassion. Additional rewards come when those Bhatt is helping demonstrate their appreciation. “One patient invited me to her home and asked her son to pick mangoes for everyone on our brigade,” says Bhatt. “It was heartwarming.”

— Erika Pradler
"Dowling boasts one of the top online graduate business degree programs in the nation with faculty listed in the TOP 25 for credentials and training."

150 Idle Hour Boulevard
Oakdale, NY 11769

1.800.DOWLING (369.5464)
Dowling.edu