



¡Salud! Southwest Tour



During this summer of 2009, 12 American medical students from the Escuela Latinoamericana de Medicina (ELAM – Latin American School of Medicine) in Havana, Cuba will board a Recreational Vehicle (RV) to travel across the Southwest region of the United States visiting a number of tribal settlements of American Indian Nations, community colleges and universities. While at the various sites the students will share their personal experiences of what it's like to study at ELAM while promoting the availability of full scholarships for students, volunteer their services while learning about some of the more significant health concerns affecting American Indian populations and to

build personal and professional relationships with health care practitioners and members of Native American communities. For background purposes, the ¡Salud! Southwest Tour was conceived at the *Medical Education for the 21st Century: Teaching for Health Equity Conference* that took place November 30 -- December 3, 2008 at the Havana Libre Hotel in Havana, Cuba. The event provided a symposium for some of the world's top health care practitioners, administrators and educators to address and collaborate on some of today's most pressing global health care issues. After the conference 12 very passionate and capable students were chosen to clerk this summer's tour. These 12

students are among the 104 Americans on full scholarships currently studying medicine in Cuba alongside their peers from 27 different countries across the world. They represent not only some of the brightest and most courageous medical school students this country has to offer, but also originate from some of the toughest and poorest communities in the U.S. The settlements they plan to visit represent one example of the type of historically underserved communities where all the U.S. ELAM students have pledged to work upon graduation.

We look for your support and participation in making this tour possible.



For more information, please visit: <http://www.saludswexchange.org/>