

# FCCE Volunteer Family update

# Geisinger

## Meet Amanda M. Caleb, director, FCCE Program



Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine is pleased to introduce Amanda M. Caleb, PhD, professor of medical humanities and director of the Family and Community Centered Experience (FCCE) Program.

Expanded in 2022, “the

FCCE Program provides medical students opportunities to work with local community-based organizations to learn the value of community involvement and continues to offer experiences with family volunteers to gain an understanding about the personal side of healthcare,” explained Caleb.

“We are very grateful for our family volunteers who play an integral part in enriching medical students’ perspectives on humanistic approaches to medicine,” she said.

Through the expanded community-based FCCE program, students are educated by leveraging strengths from the initial FCE Program while partnering with community agencies to perform service-learning initiatives.

In addition to biomedical and clinical skills training, the FCCE Program contributes to developing medical students’ professional identity, interprofessional communication skills

and narrative humility, and provides opportunities for students to participate in social justice and health equity initiatives.

Prior to joining Geisinger, Caleb served as founding director and professor

of Medical and Health Humanities and professor of English at Misericordia University. She holds a PhD in English and an MA in nineteenth-century studies from The University of Sheffield, an MPH from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and a BA in English from Davidson College.

She serves as the membership chair for the Health Humanities Consortium, is a steering committee member for the Department of Bioethics and the Holocaust for the International Chair in Bioethics (World Medical Association Cooperation Centre) and is an educational consultant for the Maimonides Institute for Medicine, Ethics, and the Holocaust (MIMEH) and the College Athletes for Respect and Equality Initiative (CARE).

### Thank you to our community agencies for supporting the FCCE Program!

United Neighborhood Centers ✦  
 Food Dignity Movement ✦ Jewish Family Services ✦ Friends of the Poor ✦  
 Catherine McCauley House ✦ Geisinger ✦ Women’s Resource Center ✦ Regional Education Academy for Careers in Health – Higher Education Initiative (REACH-HEI) ✦  
 Women with Children Program ✦  
 Educational Opportunity Centers Inc. ✦  
 Nativity Miguel Scranton ✦ S.T.A.R.S. (Students Together Achieving Remarkable Success) Program/Marywood University ✦  
 Maternal and Family Health Services ✦  
 The Children’s Advocacy Center ✦ The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children



## Community organizations, family volunteers shape future physicians

*The following comments were shared by Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine medical students and community volunteers describing their experiences with the FCCE Program.*

“FCCE is crucial to the GCSOM MD curriculum. In such a fast-paced preclinical environment, medicine seems to become a blur between one textbook and another, easily dampening the reality of medicine – treating a human being. FCCE allowed me to learn about the daily hardships health can have on an individual and their family. This experience was refreshing and revitalizing, especially during tough times in the curriculum. It is required for a physician to diagnose and treat their patients, but a requirement often overlooked is the cruciality of connecting with patients on a deeper level – something a textbook simply cannot teach.”

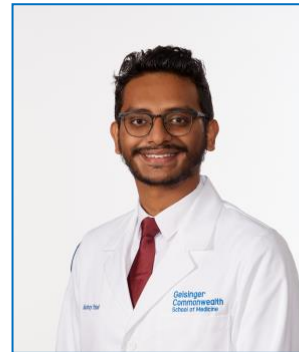
***-Akshay Patel, second-year medical student***

“FCCE has been an invaluable and transformative part of my medical school experience. Working with community members in this capacity has allowed me to enhance and expand my ability to learn from lived experiences. The foundation of trusting relationships, especially in medicine, is understanding others’ stories and life experiences. It is easy to get lost in the science and endless hours of studying in preclinical years, but FCCE continually kept me grounded in humanity and reminded me of my reasons for pursuing medicine.”

***-Jessica Fanelli, second-year medical student***

“The FCCE has left a substantial impact on the way I plan to approach care. The community member I worked with was so excited to share their stories, from family trips to Disney world to how they managed to coordinate all their doctors’ visits. So many aspects of medical care are hard to grasp until you see the challenges of working with oxygen concentrators on multiple floors or road trips firsthand. I cherished talking about our lives over a meal at their home, and I know I’ll be able to better envision the daily lives of my future patients after this connection.”

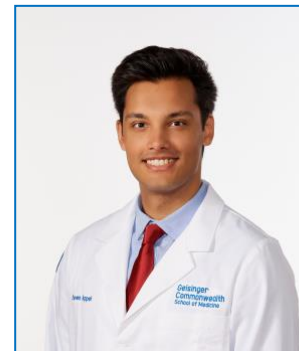
***-Deven Appel, second-year medical student***



**Akshay Patel**



**Jessica Fanelli**



**Deven Appel**

“We have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with all four sets of Geisinger Family & Community Centered Experience (FCCE) students. Over the past few years, I think they have gotten a better feel for us as a family dealing with long term illness, and we gained a much greater appreciation of the diligence and dedication needed to be a medical student.”

***-Bob & Barbara Kieselowsky – FCCE volunteers***

## Geisinger ‘Snow Angels’ help FCCE community volunteers



Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine students, from left, Sahaj Shah, Marina Heirl, Alice Bouchard and Ben Krouse

### Why do they do what they do?

On average, 12000 people a year are injured and 100 die as a result of shoveling snow. Add the back injuries, shoulder dislocation and heart attacks, and snow shoveling is one of the most dangerous activities senior citizens can attempt. As a result, Snow Angels teams up with NeighborWorks and Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging to serve the need for this service in our community.

### Who is eligible to request help with snow removal?

We focus on local senior individuals needing assistance with disabilities/chronic diseases.

### How do FCCE members request help from the Snow Angels if they are eligible?

FCCE members can contact Alejandra Marroquin, program lead at [amarroquin@geisinger.edu](mailto:amarroquin@geisinger.edu) or by calling 570-558-4263

### Who are the Snow Angels?

Snow Angels of Geisinger is a group of volunteers at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine who help community members in need by shoveling their snow.

### What do they do?

We volunteer to shovel driveways/sidewalks of people in our community who are unable to do it themselves. We focus on the elderly and those with disabilities/chronic diseases. Pairs of students are assigned to a community member. Every time it snows, the students contact their assigned community member to set up a time to shovel their snow.



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