IOWA: DMU Becomes First Medical School to Require Mental Health Course for Students

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Des Moines University (DMU) medical students are learning how to care for people with serious mental illness. In partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the university developed a course in 2018 to educate future physicians about treating serious mental illness. As part of the course, students hear from a person in recovery about their experience of living with mental illness, and from a loved one of a person with mental illness. According to Professor Lisa Streyfeller, students are learning how to provide “collaborative, comfortable, engaged care.” Following the course’s initial success as an elective, it is now a requirement for all third-year medical students.

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