

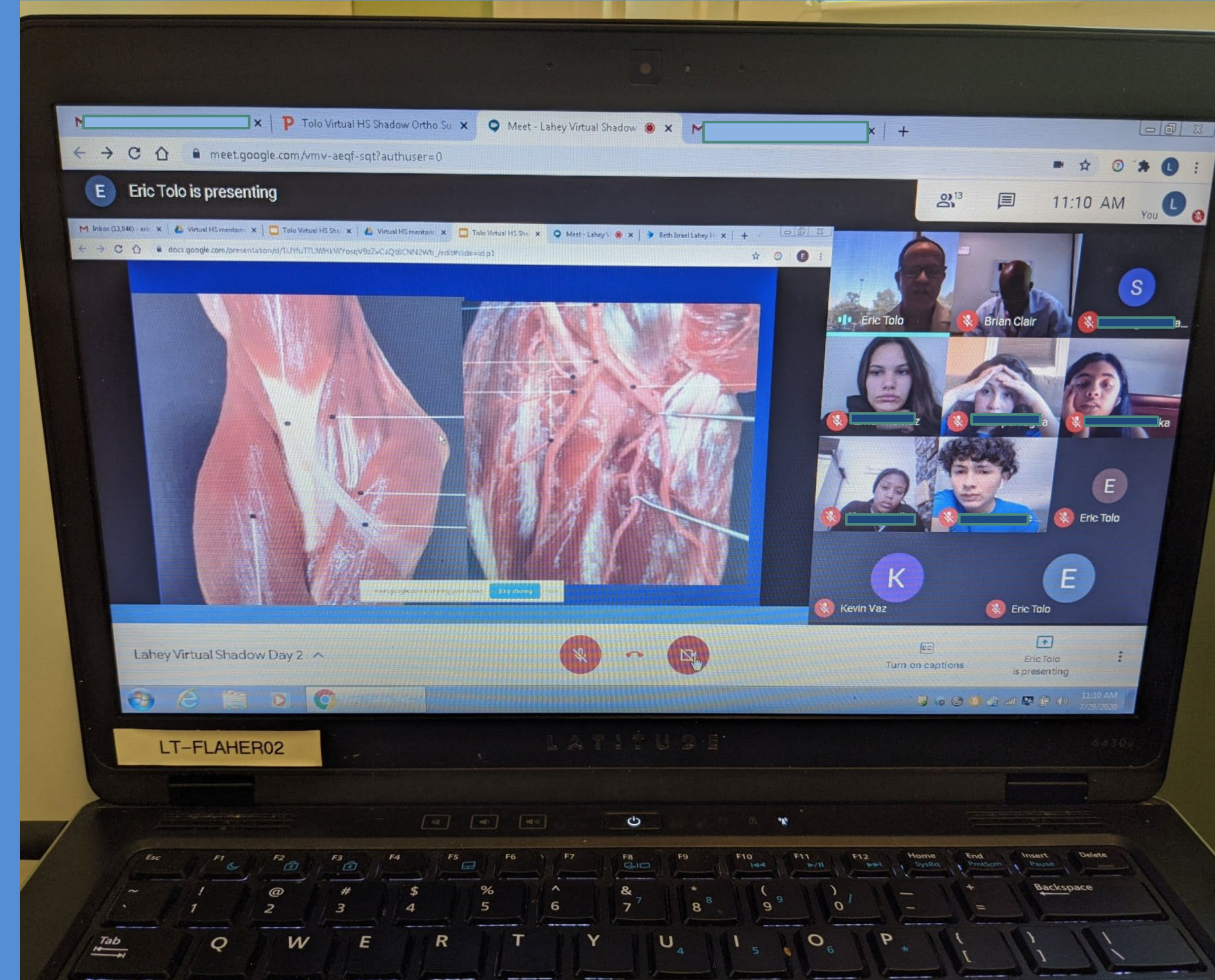
# Healthcare Career Exposure to a Diverse High School Student Population During the COVID Pandemic.

## Objective

The creation of a virtual shadowing opportunity for culturally mixed high school students of low socioeconomic backgrounds will bolster interest in medical careers, increase connectedness to front line medical providers and eventually, increase the diversity of the applicant pools to medical education programs.

## Methods

- A convenience sample of 6 high school students from one school
- Community listed as 6<sup>th</sup> most diverse community in Massachusetts and in the bottom 5% per capita income in the state
- 6, 2 hour live sessions via online video platform
- Students were able to participate in case studies, prerecorded surgery and virtual tours
- Medical Staff was live for question and answers throughout the program
- Students participated in a pre and post intervention survey



To truly change the ethnic inclusiveness of the healthcare workforce, early interest in medical professions must be fostered in high school students from varied cultural and economic backgrounds



## Results

- Overall increased interest in pursuing a career in the medical field
- A better understanding of the jobs available in healthcare and required education pathway
- Connection to medical providers for future questions and career advice

## Limitations

- This was a preliminary program with a very small sample of students
- Student were only from one school
- Follow up time period was short
- A larger scale program with follow up over several years would yield more information to support the objective of increasing diversity in the medical field