



LehighMED preLUision: Recruiting Next Generation EMTs

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¹Lehigh University Emergency Medical Services (LUEMS)



Abstract

LehighMED showcases how pre-semester programs can serve as high-impact recruitment opportunities for collegiate EMS and student-led medical organizations. Organized by Lehigh University Emergency Medical Services (LUEMS), this three-day initiative introduces incoming students to emergency medicine through clinical workshops, mentorship, and exposure to local healthcare networks. By connecting students before the semester begins, LUEMS builds early enthusiasm, fosters community partnerships, and strengthens the local emergency response network. This poster explores how similar pre-semester programs can be leveraged to expand membership pipelines, enhance preparedness, and deepen collaboration across campus and community medical systems.

Introduction

PreLUision programs are a Lehigh-specific initiative that connects incoming students with campus organizations before their collegiate experience even starts. LehighMED, initiated by advisor Steve Lewis, was founded on the idea that early emergency medical exposure can allow LUEMS to recruit and support aspiring EMT's from day 1.

This idea manifested into a 3-day preLUision event where students participate in hands on activities ranging from BLS vital skills to ALS intubations. Many of these events are hosted at neighboring hospitals/fire stations/etc. in the community, which deepens the collaborative network between LUEMS and it's partners.

Alongside clinical training, students participate in team intentional team bonding retreats, namely our Dave and Busters © excursion, where we are often joined by local medical professionals. These events reinforce the community environment in LUEMS, and are often a key role in attracting and retaining members.



Program Implementation

This program was devised with three things in mind:

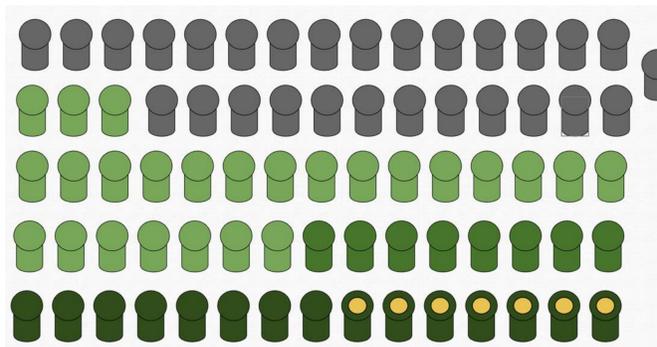
1. Exposure to emergency medicine environment
2. Building peer connections
3. Fostering community relationships

As seen in **Figure 1.0** below, the schedule was masterfully designed to allot adequate time to each of the 3 primary goals. Each activity was thoughtfully included to provide preLUision students a well-rounded experience

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medevac Helicopter Landing • Ground Ambulance Tour • Hands-on Skills Session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast with EM Professionals • ALS Skills Demonstration • Hospital Tour • Dave & Buster's © Excursion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambulance Ride Alongs with local EMS agencies

Evaluation

The data below reflects the LUEMS student trajectory for the past 6 years, excluding 2021 where data was unavailable (2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025). During this time, 76 members participated in preLUision LehighMED and graph percentages reflect this total.



- Never joined LUEMS
- Became EMT Certified
- Exec Member/PreLUision Leader
- Joined as Explorer
- Became LUEMS Crew Chief (CC)

Discussion/Conclusion

Figure 4.0 is extracted from the post-program survey of 2025 participants

Q1.5 - As a result of your participation in preLUision, please rate your agreement..					
Field	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I plan to learn more about this topic	62.50%	37.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
I plan to engage in future activities around this topic	75.00%	12.50%	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%
I strengthened my ability to adapt to new environments	62.50%	37.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Notably, 100% of survey respondents agreed that their participation has led them to want to learn more about EMS-related topics.

As indicated by PreLUision to LUEMS Member and EMT turnover rates, as well as participant satisfaction levels, this program continues to be well-received by first-year students and successful in achieving its goals of exposing students to EMS while fostering community at Lehigh.

In the future, we hope to expand the program, as the group size has been restricted to 20 participants due to funding limitations, despite program interest exceeding 20 students. By expanding the group size and taking on more first year students, we can expand our outreach to Lehigh's first year students and increase our retention rate.

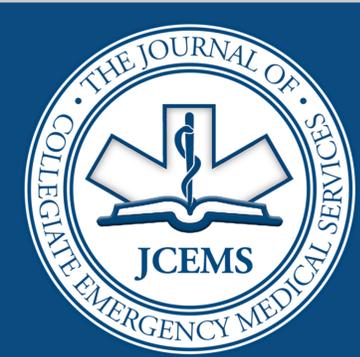


Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge Lehigh University for their support in our organization's efforts, LUPD for their collaborative assistance over the years, our alumni donors for their financial contributions, and most importantly, all of our student volunteer members who carry out the mission of LUEMS everyday.

Contact

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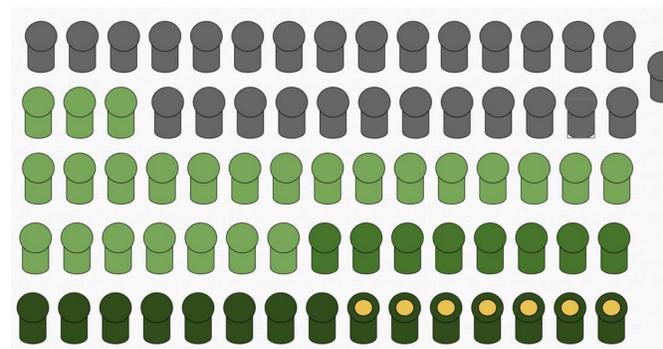
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