Mitchell Whigham  
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Why did you choose the FIU PA Program?
I chose the FIU PA program for a number of reasons. During my interview for admission, a current student came and talked to myself and some other applicants. The way they spoke about the program showed that the staff is compassionate and caring when it came to their students and their education. They spoke to the collaborative learning environment and how the class is a family. Another thing that drew me to the FIU PA program was their commitment to diversity and helping those who were medically under-served. At this program I knew I would be able to learn, grow, and be challenged to become the best PA I could be.

How would you describe FIU PA to others?
I would describe the FIU PA program as supportive, collaborative, and challenging. While the program may be rigorous, I know that the staff and my classmates that have become like family to me will always have my back. This program is receptive to what the students have to say and is always striving to improve and grow. The FIU PA program will provide me with the knowledge and tools to be able to competently and compassionately serve my community.

What is your favorite part of the FIU and/or the PA Program?
My favorite part of this program has to be the incredible people I’m lucky and proud to call my classmates. No matter what, we always support each other, and I know I wouldn’t be able to make it through this without them. Through all the late night study sessions, coffee runs, socials, laughs, and memories we have become a family. I have become a better person, and will become a better PA in the future because of them.

What is your favorite quote and what does it say about you?
“Patients won’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” I first heard this quote at a Florida Academy of Physician Assistants conference. This quote is important because it always reminds me that no matter how much medical knowledge I gain, it’s critically important to show compassion and empathy to build that connection with my future patients. This point has been something the program has been instilling in us since the first day, and this quote is a great way to summarize an important part of patient care that our professors have been teaching us.