

## **MPAS Class of 2021 Awarded White Coats**

*Student Clinical Rotations begin January through December 2021*

FGCU hosted its second White Coat Ceremony for MPAS students during a live stream event in November. The ceremony is a rite of passage as the students don their white coats for the first time emphasizing the importance of compassionate patient care at the start of clinical training.

Students will spend the next year completing a variety of clinical rotations including family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics in Southwest Florida hospitals and healthcare facilities. The ceremony is significant for the MPAS program as it prepares to admit its fifth cohort of students in August 2021 with more than 2200 applications submitted to the program.

FGCU created the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program to help meet the growing demand for more healthcare professionals in Southwest Florida. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates employment in the field will grow 38% nationally between 2012 and 2020.

For information about how to become a preceptor for FGCU MPAS students, contact Amy Steinhour, Clinical Director at [asteinhour@fgcu.edu](mailto:asteinhour@fgcu.edu) or by phone at 239-590-7536.