

HEAL Mentor Spotlight



Bronwyn S. Smith, PharmD, BCPS

Bronwyn S. Smith is a Clinical Pharmacist and PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director dedicated to supporting patients in tribal healthcare settings. Having completed the UCSF HEAL Fellowship in 2023, she joined the mentorship program to give back to the community that invested in her and to support others navigating their personal and professional journeys within health equity.

Professional Background

Bronwyn currently serves as a clinical pharmacist at Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation, where she supports patients through clinical services including diabetes and anticoagulation care. She also serves as the PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director and is actively involved in pharmacy education and mentorship. Much of her career has centered around improving healthcare access, developing future healthcare professionals, and serving the communities she cares about.

Mentorship Insights

Q: What initially drew you to become a mentor for the HEAL program?

My experience as a HEAL Fellow had a lasting impact on both my career and how I view service and leadership. I know firsthand how valuable it is to have people who understand the challenges, questions, and uncertainty that can come with this type of work. I wanted to give back to a program and community that invested so much in me. Becoming a mentor felt like a natural way to help others navigate their own journey while continuing to learn from the HEAL community myself.

Q: What is the most rewarding aspect of being a HEAL mentor?

The most rewarding part is watching someone grow in confidence and realize that they are capable of more than they initially thought. Sometimes mentorship is simply being the person who listens, asks the right questions, or reminds someone of why they started. I also really value the relationships that come from being part of the HEAL community. It is rewarding to see Fellows take what they learn and use it to create meaningful change in their own communities.

Q: What should new cohort members expect from the mentorship component of the HEAL program or from the HEAL Southwest Community?

I hope new cohort members see mentorship as a space where they can be honest, ask questions, and talk through both professional and personal challenges. Your mentor does not have to have all the answers, but they can help you think through the questions that matter. The HEAL Southwest Community is also much bigger than your individual mentor relationship; there is a network of people who genuinely want to see you succeed. Come into the experience willing to build relationships, learn from others, and contribute what you bring to the community.

Q: What is the single most important piece of advice you would give to someone just starting the HEAL program?

Be open to where the experience takes you, even if it looks different from what you originally imagined. HEAL gives you opportunities to learn, build relationships, and see healthcare and leadership from perspectives you may not have considered before. You do not need to have everything figured out when you start. Take it all in, ask questions,

build your network, and trust that the experience will shape you in ways you may not recognize until later.

Q: What's a piece of advice you've been given that has stuck with you and that you have passed on to others?

One piece of advice that has stayed with me is, "You don't have to know exactly where you're going to take the next step." I have learned that sometimes we put too much pressure on ourselves to have the entire path figured out before we move forward. Instead, focus on the opportunity or decision in front of you and be willing to adjust along the way. I often remind others that their path does not have to look linear to be meaningful.

Inspiration & Joy

- **Community & Family:** She finds deep joy in her family, running, and the relationships built through the various communities she is fortunate to be part of.
- **Stepping Outside Comfort Zones:** Her recent experience running the Sydney Marathon reminded her of how powerful it can be to step outside of her comfort zone and connect with people from different backgrounds.
- **Looking Ahead:** She is inspired by individuals who continue to show up for their communities and looks forward to continuing to grow as a mentor, leader, and runner while making time for the people and experiences that matter most.