

2016 Urban Scholar



Luisa Paredes is from an urban community in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She moved to Brooklyn, NY at the age of 15, where she completed high school, and later to Saint Paul, Minnesota, where she studied Biology with a focus on Community & Global Health. After college, Luisa returned to her home country to work with a nonprofit organization focused on youth leadership and community empowerment. She also worked as a Spanish medical interpreter for three years in North Carolina. After witnessing the vast need for quality, caring physicians in underserved communities back home, and the struggles of Latino patients in the US healthcare system, Luisa was ready to attend medical school. Luisa is the first in her family to attend college in the US, and will be the first physician most of her friends and family know. She is passionate about serving underprivileged populations, particularly in urban areas, where she has spent most of her life and has noticed great need.