Optimizing Student Learning About the Social Determinants of Health Video Transcript

**Describer:** Screen fades to Dr. Karen Sheehan, a physician in the Pediatrics Department at Northerstern University.

**Dr. Sheehan:** What we’re doing for our piece of the grant is to figure out the best way to teach students about the social determinants of health. We know to produce health of the patient it’s not enough just to go to the doctor. We need to understand the circumstances where patients live and where they work and where they play. And so what we’re trying to do is figure out what is the best way to teach a medical student about these concepts. Is it in the classroom? Or is it in the community? And once we decide what we need to teach them and how to teach them, how do we evaluate it? We don’t know that yet. And what we’re going to do in our piece of the grant is to study this and come up with best practices.

**Dr. Sheehan:** I think teaching about the social determinants of health is so important. It’s only been in recent years that, as a medical profession, we’ve realized how important where people live, their health behaviors, where they work, has such an impact on their ability to live healthy. And so for us to be able to find the best way for us to teach medical students to understand where patients come from, and so they can do the best job as possible to provide optimal health for the patients. I mean, I think this is just a fantastic opportunity to be able to help define the best practice of teaching for medical students.

**Describer:** screen fades to white, followed by the Northwestern University logo.