OUR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Increase the recruitment of health care providers.
1,430+ RURAL/UNDERSERVED ROTATIONS were performed by WVSOM students, more than any other medical school in West Virginia and one of the top in the nation.

Increase the retention rate of health care providers.
4 STUDENTS RECEIVED SIGN-ON INCENTIVES for accepting primary care residency programs in West Virginia.

Develop pipeline programs to attract students to rural/underserved health care careers.
1,570+ HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS were introduced to rural medicine opportunities through RHI pipeline activities.

Support the involvement of West Virginians in health education.
6 INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES were conducted for WVSOM RHI students to learn about environmental exposures that could cause injuries or diseases to West Virginia patients.

Information based on 2017-2018 academic year.

RURAL HEALTH INITIATIVE
INFORMATION
(304)793-6568
ruralhealthinitiative@osteo.wvsom.edu
www.wvsom.edu/Programs/rhi/rhi-home

Our goal is to RETAIN DOCTORS OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE in rural areas

The Rural Health Initiative (RHI) program was designed to enhance the rural/underserved primary care curriculum at WVSOM in order to produce graduates qualified to practice medicine in rural/underserved communities. Students who are accepted into the program participate in unique experiences that provide opportunities to learn about local industries and the daily lives of West Virginia residents. Students gain insight into how those factors affect the health and treatment of patients. Initiatives include exposure to the coal, timber, agricultural, and oil and gas industries, along with related safety issues.

WVSOM RHI STUDENTS HAVE A PASSION TO SERVE RURAL COMMUNITIES

TRAINING UNIQUELY QUALIFIED D.O.s to practice in underserved communities across the mountain state

RHI is a program of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. This program is presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.
RHI is reaching its goals and fulfilling its commitment to improve health care in rural communities

PIPELINE PROGRAMS

- Pre-Osteopathic Program
- Green Coat Program
- Anatomy lab tours
- Just Say KNOW Scholars Program
- Upward Bound Program
- Collaboration with HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)
- WVSOM Statewide Campus

PRE-MED

- The Pre-Osteopathic Program is an early assurance program designed for Concord University, West Virginia University, and West Liberty University undergraduate students who have a desire to become an osteopathic physician and have identified the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine as their first choice for pursuing a medical education. A WVSOM faculty mentor is matched to each student to monitor and encourage his/her science progress, as well as to answer any questions.

WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- Rural/underserved base sites within the WVSOM Statewide Campus system
- Wilderness Medicine rotation

RURAL PRACTICE

- WVSOM Statewide Campus system for clinical rotations ensures students receive the utmost educational experience, a more stable home life and greater opportunities for students to match into state residency programs.
- Community health education and outreach

MEDICAL EDUCATION

- Rural Practice/Rural Primary Care Day
- Rural Practice/Rural Primary Care Day
- Wilderness Medicine rotation
- Community health education and outreach

POST-GRADUATE

- Rural/underserved primary care recruitment and retention
- Link to WVSOM Statewide Campus

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- Community health education and outreach
- RHI industry activities

RHI STUDENT BENEFITS

- Insight and exposure
- Link to resources and networking
- Medical rotations in rural/underserved areas
- Health profession collaboration
- Enhancing health in rural/underserved communities
- Physician-guiding students on their path to rural/underserved primary care
- Career enhancement opportunities

PHYSICIAN MENTOR

- Student doctors selected for the Rural Health Initiative program will be placed in specially-designated primary care experiences with rural/underserved West Virginia physicians and residents who serve as mentors. These physicians assist the student doctor through clinical rotations and residency.

FINANCIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- Financial incentives are available for RHI students who match with a primary care residency in West Virginia in an effort to keep them in the state where they can provide valuable services to patients.

STUDENT HOUSING

- Financial incentives are available for RHI students who match with a primary care residency in West Virginia in an effort to keep them in the state where they can provide valuable services to patients.

WVSOM POINTS OF PRIDE

- WVSOM was ranked one of the nation’s top medical schools for the 20th consecutive year.
- WVSOM is No. 5 in providing primary care physicians for West Virginia.
- WVSOM RHI is reaching its goals and fulfilling its commitment to improve health care in rural communities.

KEY

- Insight and exposure
- Link to resources and networking
- Medical rotations in rural/underserved areas
- Health profession collaboration
- Enhancing health in rural/underserved communities
- Physician-guiding students on their path to rural/underserved primary care
- Career enhancement opportunities

WVSOM is No. 1 in providing primary care physicians for West Virginia.

(R.V. & World Report)