



Expanding the Rural Health Workforce: Development and Delivery of a Rural Scholars Program



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BACKGROUND

- Caring for the health needs of rural and underserved population is a specialty in itself.
- Rural and Underserved patients face different health issues than people in cities and towns or with access to more resources.
- To best serve them rural and underserved health care providers should receive specialized training and hands-on experience working with these populations.

PROGRAM MISSION

The Rural and Underserved Health Scholars Program (RUHSP) prepares students for rural practice by providing opportunities to develop leadership skills, gain patient care experience and learn research techniques necessary to understand the unique needs of rural and underserved populations.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

5 Pillars of the Program



WHAT YOU WILL DO

- **Seminars** - learn about various topics related to rural health, such as rural health care and project development.
- **Patient experiences** - care for patients in rural settings and shadow health care providers who practice in rural settings.
- **Research experience** - design, implement and evaluate research related to rural and underserved patient populations, in collaboration with faculty members.
- **Leadership experience** - utilize our tools and guidance to solidify strong leadership skills necessary to enact change in rural and underserved communities.
- **Service opportunities** - develop and implement service-learning opportunities to address needs and opportunities in a rural, underserved community.

Seminar Topics

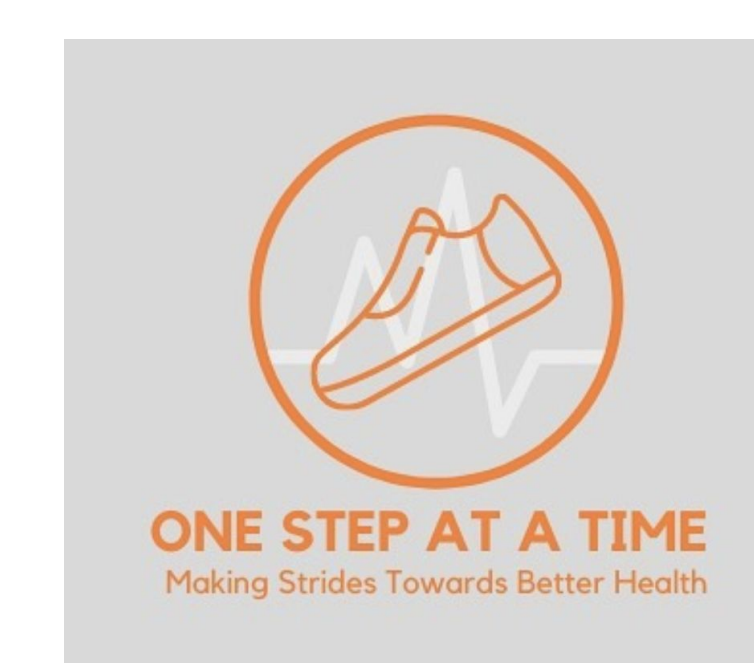
Rural Healthcare Delivery
Rural Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)
Telehealth Use in Rural Healthcare
Rural Pharmacy Practice
General Rural Population Health
Chronic Disease in Rural America
Healthcare Access in Rural communities
Rural Health Disparities
Social Determinants of Health (SDH) for rural people
Violence and Abuse in Rural America
Hunger and Access to Healthy Food
Rural Mental Health
Rural Health in Specific Populations
Health and Healthcare in Frontier Areas
Patients on the Border and Migrant health
Patients with Disabilities
Rural Tribal Health
Children and Adolescents in rural areas

Getting Started
Partnering with Communities
Getting to Know Your Community
Needs Assessments
SWOT Analysis
Defining Program
Defining Mission and Goals
Funding Opportunities and Budgets
Policies and Procedures and Protocols
Intro to Research 101
Collecting Data and Outcome Measures/Research and Assessment Plans
Implementation and road blocks

RESULTS

Participant pre-survey results

- 40% come from a hometown of under 7500 people.
- Self-rating scores on knowledge and abilities related to rural/underserved care were “fair” on average.
- Majority agreed with having an interest in practicing in a rural/underserved setting, but were neutral regarding preparedness and confidence



Diminishing the Doubts



PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Pre
Participant knowledge, skills, and perceptions of rural/underserved care
Participant program interest and career goals
Post
Participant knowledge, skills, and perceptions of rural/underserved care
Participant career trajectory
Project impact, outcomes, dissemination and sustainability
Community partner feedback

CONCLUSION

A rural/underserved training program successfully enrolled students and is currently evaluating the impact of the program on student learning, community impact, and rural health workforce development.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Explore development of a modified training program for current providers practicing in rural or underserved areas or have an interest in learning more about the needs of these patient populations

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our current Rural Scholars for their participation, effort and passion for serving the community.