Marshall University
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Rural Health Initiative
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Rural Health Initiative

Problem: More physicians needed in rural areas
Solution: Growing our own

– Pipeline programs
  • Middle School
  • High School
    – Encourage students to begin to think about going to college and eliminating perceived barriers
  • College and University

– Recruitment and Retention
  • Encourage students to consider health care careers
  • Provide students with tools to help them be successful in schools
  • Encourage medical students to remain in state for residency
  • Encouraging physicians to practice and remain West Virginia and in rural areas

– Community Development
  • Increase physician involvement in local communities
  • Increase communities involvement in pipeline programs schools
  • Physicians allowing students to be involved in volunteering and shadowing opportunities
Pipeline Programs

- College going rates
  - United States: 64.6% (2010)
  - West Virginia 56.4% (2012)
  - Southern West Virginia counties 50.9% (2012)

Pipeline Programs
Middle and High Schools

• Programs and activities for the current academic year:
  – visits to 31 High Schools in 14 counties
  – involving over 1,900 students
• Post-test scores showed a 25% increase in knowledge of healthcare careers

• Activities Include:
  – Tours of Medical School and clinical skills lab
  – Medical Residents/Faculty Physicians/Other Healthcare Professionals speaking about Health Care Careers
  – Hands-on activities such as DNA extraction, suturing, practicing intubating, etc.
  – Videoconference and virtual surgeries
  – Financial aid discussions/FAFSA workshops
  – Volunteering
Pipeline Programs
Middle and High Schools

• Some events are in collaboration with other programs that serve minority/underrepresented students
  – Upward Bound
  – Gear-Up (*Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs*)
  – HOSA (*Health Occupations Students of America*)
  – HSTA (*Health Science and Technology Academy*)

• Community Partners
  – County Boards of Education
  – Community and Technical Colleges
  – Community health professionals
Pipeline Programs College

• Recruiting focus:
  – Underrepresented Minorities in Medicine
  – Minorities
  – Females
  – Rural
• Working directly with pre-health advisors in the state

• Activities are focused on eliminating perceived barriers:
  – MCAT Prep books
  – Test taking skills
  – Interviewing workshops
  – Financial aid discussions
  – Preparation of medical school application
  – Volunteering and shadowing
Pipeline Programs College

- Pre-medical Summer Academy
  - Residential academy focused on undergraduate students
  - Focus on study skills assessment, team work, and leadership development
  - Networking with medical students, residents and faculty
  - Development of resumes, mock interviews and importance of volunteering and shadowing
Recruitment and Retention

- Individualized financial counseling for medical students
- Financial Forums
  - Mandatory medical student attendance
  - Representatives from State and Federal Scholarship/Loan Repayment Programs
Recruitment and Retention

• Rural Scholars
  – Residents and fourth year medical students participating in this special track will be provided the opportunity to:
    – work directly with faculty and rural health leaders
    – conduct research on a range of rural health issues
    – attend state level meetings pertinent to rural health
    – attend a national rural health conference and participate in seminars focused on special topics in rural health
  – Rural Scholars are chosen based on interest in rural health
Community Development

• Rural Health Fellow
  • Rural physicians, early in their practice, are selected to participate in rural health fellowship programs. This opportunity strengthens their ties to the medical school and provides a supportive network therefore reducing isolation of rural practice. In addition it allows them to explore clinical areas they might not have had time to explore while in residency.
  • These physicians are utilized as mentors for medical students and residents.
Assessment and Challenges

Assessment

• Pre- and Post- tests for Middle and High School Programs
• Summer Academy evaluation
• Matriculating Student Questionnaire (Association of American Medical Colleges)
• Focused medical student in-house survey regarding participation in pipeline events and activities

Challenges

– Tracking students after high school programs
– Tracking students after college
Resources

• Program Coordinator
• Funding (Rural Health Initiative and Medical School)
• Community partners
Physicians in Rural Practice

Pipeline Programs

Community Development

Recruitment and Retention