

Building a Healthcare Pipeline through Rural Medical Education: If you build it, they will come!

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Disclosures: None

Objectives:

- 1. How to build a “perfect” teaching community that can be a bridge to recruitment
- 2. Establishing connections among the rural communities, the academic institution, & the community teaching physicians and health centers

Why is this important?

- Purpose statement of University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences: The primary purpose of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences is to educate physicians and other health professionals and to enhance the quality of life in North Dakota. Other purposes include the discovery of knowledge that benefits the people of this state and enhances the quality of their lives.
- North Dakota Healthcare Workforce Initiative: Goal of placing Family Medicine physicians in rural North Dakota Communities. Student loan repayment if student stays in rural ND community for 5 years.

How to build a great rural teaching site:

- Dedicated teaching physicians
 - High quality of patient care
 - Genuine interest in Science and Medicine
 - Connected to the rural community in many aspects

How to build a great rural teaching site

- Welcoming environment by all
 - Other physicians and nursing staff trained to engage the student
 - Administration takes time to visit with the students
 - Patients welcome students to the care team

Other great things at great sites:

- Invite the student to community activities – students have participated in musical events and coached sports teams
- Develop a mechanism to follow – up with students after they leave the rural community
 - Informally, the teaching preceptor may do this through e-mail or phone
 - Formally, give a business card and an offer for the student to return for another look at practice opportunities down the road. Ask for student contact information and approval to check in with the student periodically

Strengthening Ties with the Academic Institution

- Department of Family and Community Medicine is always looking for teaching physician faculty for our third-year medical students
- Opportunities to strengthen our working relationships with rural healthcare facilities is a goal set with our Professor and Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, Dr. David Schmitz, who has visited many rural communities and offered insight into healthcare needs of various rural ND communities over several years

Strengthening Ties with the Academic Institution

- Dr. Delage and Dr. Sherman bring over 30 years of combined work in rural communities – Ortonville, MN and Dickinson, ND. The rewards of rural Family Medicine practice frequently discussed with our medical students.
- Opportunities for student research projects and collaborative work with Dr. Delage, Dr. Schmitz and Dr. Sherman on medical student education

Rural Health Education Network

- Discussed at this meeting last year
- Still a goal and “work-in-progress” for those in medical education
- “Recruit to Retain – Retention is Recruitment”
- Benefits:
 - Quality of Care
 - Satisfaction of Providers
 - Patient and Community Health Improvements

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