



Q&A with **MS4 Donald Brubaker**

Current Rural Scholar

What made you choose the Rural Scholars Program? As a medical student I had a series of positive experiences in family medicine settings generally, and with the WVU Family Medicine Department in particular. As the time to pick a residency and career direction approached, I strongly felt that it made sense to remain at WVU. It is here that I found colleagues I love, faculty I trust and in a community where I feel at home.

What do you think is a benefit of the program? The stipend and the opportunity to bypass the cost & stress of the residency hunt are perks that speak for themselves. The most surprising benefit was the comfort of knowing that in the coming stressful years of my career I will be working with individuals that are such smart, hard-working and good-hearted people.

What's did you enjoy most about the program? Rural Scholars allowed me to view fourth year as a golden opportunity to advance my knowledge in areas I know I will need for success in residency. Otherwise I feel I would have been distracted by half a year's process of applications, travel and interviews.

If you had to sum up your experience in a few words what would they be?

Camaraderie, sense of purpose, and stability

What recommendation would you give to someone interested in this program? Family Medicine offers so many more interesting career paths than you've probably realized. Talk to a mentor in the family medicine community who is living their best life. If you can see yourself fitting into a community of well-rounded, dedicated humanists with diverse interests, give the Rural Scholars program a thorough look.