

WV AHEC Rural Community Health Scholars

OVERVIEW:

WV AHEC Rural Community Health Scholars (RCH Scholars) is a highly selective program available to 75 of West Virginia's top health professions students interested in practicing in rural or underserved communities; WVU and non-WVU students alike can participate.

RCH Scholars is designed as a two-year program with one goal in mind: to enhance each scholar's ability to make a difference in health care by facilitating clinical, didactic, and community based activities in rural/underserved areas of WV that positively impact the lives of West Virginia's communities.

Health professions students in the following areas are eligible to apply:

- Dentistry and Dental Hygiene
- Medical (Osteopathic, Family, OBGYN, etc.)
- Nurse Practitioner and Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Assistant
- Public/Population Health Programs.
- And more (contact us if you do not see your discipline listed and would like to participate)

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Scholars will be enrolled in this program for two years, and must fulfill the following requirements **annually** for a total of 160 hours of additional RCH curriculum beyond your college or school's health professions components (80 hours total in year one, and 80 hours total in year two) to complete the program:

- 40 hours of community-based experiential or clinical training in a rural or underserved area
- 40 hours of didactic education via our online platform, SOLE

You may complete all program requirements asynchronously from September 1 – June 30 each year.

PROGRAM BENEFITS:

- A \$650/year stipend (\$1,300 over the course of the two-year program) will be awarded to participating scholars.
- A focus on interdisciplinary collaboration with peers to enhance your education while also serving in rural and/or underserved areas of WV.
- Opportunity to participate in continuing education experiences with peers, faculty, staff, and colleagues.
- Gain collaborative shadowing experience in clinical and community settings.
- Make a direct impact on the rural and/or underserved communities of West Virginia.
- Gain recognition for your dedication to the rural and/or underserved areas of WV.
- Grow your passions through immersive experiences and a supportive community-based learning environment.
- Build relationships with scholars in other disciplines, faculty, staff, and clinical preceptors.
- Cultivate your professional skillset in leadership, problem-solving, community health, and innovation.
- Make professional connections in the communities which you may practice in upon graduation.



ELIGIBILITY:

Students interested in applying for this opportunity:

- Should have a current interest in health care for rural and/or underserved communities.
- Must be enrolled in a health professions degree or certificate program with at least *two years remaining before degree or program completion*.
- Must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA to apply.
- Must be available to participate in 40 hours of online didactic learning *and* 40 hours of community-based experiential learning annually for two years.
- Must be willing to respond to Scholars Coordinator inquiries on an annual basis upon program completion for a minimum of five years, as RCH Scholars staff will request updates about your practice location and professional activities.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

The following materials are required at the time of application, and should therefore be completed (i.e. ready to submit) **before** starting your application:

- Updated Resume/CV
- Letter of recommendation from a community member in a rural or underserved community (this can be anyone who can speak to your abilities; NOT a family member)
- Letter of Recommendation from a faculty member (must be on university letterhead and signed by the faculty member)
- Personal Statement describing why you would like to be a Rural Community Health Scholar (no more than 300 words)

Application Deadline: August 1, 2018

To apply (or to view more detailed program information), please visit: http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/ahec/rch_scholars/

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Or, stop by and see us at:
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Robert C. Byrd Health Science Center North
Room 3019, 3rd Floor

Also, be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest program updates!



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