The Rural Health Initiative: Advancing Pharmacist Care for Rural Communities in Washington

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Objectives:

At the completion of this program, the participant will be able to:

- Describe how pharmacists as primary care providers can advance and sustain health care in rural communities
- Identify pathways into pharmacy and health science education for students from rural communities
- Recognize specialized knowledge and skills rural providers must have to meet the needs of their patients
- Discuss opportunities for development of academic-industry partnerships to support education and practice advancement
HPSA: Primary Care

Health Professional Shortage Areas: Primary Care, by County, 2022 - Washington

Source: data.HRSA.gov, July 2022
The Problem

Medically Underserved Area/Population
The Problem

Pharmacy Deserts
The Problem

Access to Healthcare in Rural Washington

The nearly 800,000 rural Washingtonians struggle to access healthcare

An estimated 600 new providers needed to eliminate this gap

How do we meet this need?
Pharmacy Patient Care Services

- Prescription services
- Immunizations
- Preventative care services
- Wellness screenings
- Collaborative care services
- Medication therapy management
- Chronic disease management
- Ensuring follow-up and access to healthcare resources
Let’s Hear From You!
Purpose

Increase access to quality healthcare in rural Washington

1. Create a pathways to health science education

2. Provide specialized training in rural healthcare

3. Advance pharmacy practice in rural communities
SERVING THE UNDERSERVED

Eastern Washington

- Critical Access Hospital + Residency Site
- Critical Access Hospital
- No Critical Access Hospital
Central Washington

- Critical Access Hospital
- No Critical Access Hospital

SERVING THE UNDERSERVED

WSU

Prosser
Richland

Yakima
Sunnyside
Ellensburg
Wenatchee
Omak
Goldendale

Yakama Reservation
CREATING A PATHWAY TO THE HEALTH SCIENCES

Rural health track

PRE-MATRICULATION
CURRICULAR PROGRAMS
POST-GRADUATE TRAINING
How to become a pharmacist

Traditional
• 4 yrs pre-pharmacy study
  • BS in a science field
• 3-4 yrs pharmacy school
  • Doctor of Pharmacy Degree
• Pharmacist Licensure Exam and State Board Requirements
  • NAPLEX
  • MPJE
• Optional post-graduate residency
• Optional specialty board certification

Alternate Pathways
• Pharmacy assistant
  • Start in high school
• Certified pharmacy technician
  • Gain valuable work experience
• Associate in Science – transfer degree
  • Complete pre-requisite courses
• Save-a-Seat & Early admissions options
• Complete the doctor of pharmacy degree at a local extension campus
RHI Curriculum

1. **Specialized, elective course work (5-8 credits)**
   - Current Affairs and Opportunities in Rural Health – 2 credits
   - Electives covering topics relevant to rural health (within and outside CPPS) – 3 - 6 credits

2. **Capstone course (2 - 4 credits)**
   - Longitudinal special project in rural health (starts with IPPE)
   - 1 credit awarded/semester to a maximum of 4 credits
   - Faculty or community mentor
   - Present results at a regional or national meeting, develop a manuscript for publication

3. **IPPE and APPE rotations**
   - Rural sites or sites prioritizing needs of medically underserved populations
   - Utilize multiple "home" zones across the state

4. **Interprofessional service and learning experiences in rural communities**

5. **Unique mentoring program utilizing faculty, alumni, and community partners with rural Rx experience**
CREATING A PATHWAY TO THE HEALTH SCIENCES

Interprofessional education opportunity

College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
College of Nursing
Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

One WSU
Targeted training of pharmacy residents and student pharmacists

UW SOP — WSU CPPS — WSPA

- Two clinical faculty members in behavioral health
- Four post-graduate residency slots
- UW – WSU curricular integration in behavioral health
Let’s Hear From You!
**PharmD Program**

- January 2022: Identify RHI leaders, develop RHI coursework, identify RHI faculty in CPPS/CoN/ESFCOM
- August 2022: Identify RHI students, distribute scholarships
- January 2023: Cohorts complete RHI IPPEs
- August 2023: RHI coursework begins
- January 2024: University approval of certificate program
- August 2024: RHI degree option?

**Residency Programs**

- Associate Dean to oversee
- Hire Residency Program Directors (RHI and Behavioral Health), identify sites, seek accreditation
- Identify/hire clinical faculty, place with partners at rural sites
- Interview residents, match
- Residents begin rural residencies
Partnering with our Pharmacy Community
We Want to Hear From You!

- What challenges are you facing, and solutions are you exploring related to improving access to pharmacy care?
  - Past successes?
  - Past challenges?
  - New endeavors?
  - Dreams/goals?