

Montana Rural Health Association

Montana Rural Health Initiative

Montana's Rural Health Initiative, managed through the Montana Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center, is a program dedicated to improving health and wellness throughout Montana. Our Mission is to create a dynamic network linking prevention and community-based wellness programs throughout Montana to stimulate a higher level of wellness across the state. Our website holds a collection of useful resources, including evidence based information showing the effectiveness of community based health, wellness, and prevention programs. The Rural Health Initiative also hosts a variety of webinars each month, covering a broad range of health related issues or programs, such as grant writing, community development and workplace wellness. This May, Lynn Paul from Montana State University Extension, informed viewers about the Healthy at Every Size Program, and in June Richard Merchant, Director of the New York Northern Area Health Education Center, will share his Social Enterprise and Social Entrepreneurship presentation with us. On the website, visitors can find Program Profiles, recordings of past



webinars, toolkits, news and view our calendar events.

Program Profiles are local health and wellness initiatives taking place throughout the state, and each week we feature a different program, based off these profiles. The Rural Health Initiative has developed two toolkits of its own, one focusing on the implementation of workplace wellness programs and the other on integrating health fairs into your community. Other toolkits, specific to rural communities, can also be found on our website. To view, please visit our website, <http://montanaruralhealthinitiative.info/> to see what our program is all about! While you are visiting our website, make sure to sign up for our list serve, and check out the Montana's Rural Health Initiative Facebook page. Also, please contact us if you, your organization, or someone you know should be featured as our Profile of the Week. We care about what you are doing to make your community a healthier place to live! You can also submit events to us where we will happily display them on our calendar. We love to share your program successes, so please contact us anytime!



Montana Rural Health
Spring 2014

May 18-24: National EMS Week

National EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Week is May 18-24, 2014. In addition, Wednesday, May 21st is EMS for Children's Day. During National EMS Week, Montana EMS practitioners will be celebrated across the state. This year, Montana will be celebrating National EMS week by holding the first annual Montana Emergency Medical Services Awards Ceremony. The ceremony, at the Capitol Rotunda in Helena on May 21st will begin at 10:00am with a reception following. Presenting the awards will be Richard Opper, Montana DPHHS Director. We hope to see you there to help celebrate Montana's dedicated EMS professionals!

Three state awards will be presented during the ceremony:

- **EMS System Award:** Flathead County EMS
- **EMS Service Award:** Colstrip Ambulance Service
- **EMS Provider Award:** Kevin Lauer

For more information please contact: Robin Suzor, 406.444.0901



TRUST STUDENT EXPERIENCE

By Julie Campbell WWAMI MT TRUST M1 E'13

Growing up in Montana, it was easy to forget how wonderful our communities are. After heading to the Northeast for college, I quickly remembered everything I had taken for granted the past eighteen years. A smile on the street was no longer commonplace; neither was a light-hearted conversation with the grocery store clerk when I needed to pick up some cereal. I didn't get to see the mountains rising out of snow-covered valleys every day; nor could I drive just a few hours away to go to two of America's greatest national parks. Things were different out there—not necessarily bad, just not for me. I stuck it out, but throughout college, my end goal of working in Montana always remained in focus. My interest in medicine has also been long to develop. As the daughter of a doctor and a nurse, there seemed to be no escape from the healthcare world. When trying to figure out what I might want to do with my career, I saw how fulfilling my parents found their careers, which led me to look into medicine for myself. I loved that I could combine my interest in science with my desire to have helping others as the focal point of my career. After shadowing doctors in Montana and in the east as well as working at a free clinic in rural Vermont, I knew that medicine was for me.

The TRUST program has provided me exposure to what life would be like fulfilling two of my most important career goals – working in Montana and practicing medicine. At first, I was a little hesitant to apply. I wasn't sure what specialty I would choose (I'm still not!) and I hadn't spent a significant amount of time in Montana's rural communities, so I didn't want to be locked in to anything. After looking closer at the program, I realized that I was not obligated to do anything, but instead would be exposed to a completely different side of medicine. So far, my experiences have exceeded expectations. I have delivered a placenta, sutured a cut in someone's hand, and started learning the basics of a physical exam. I have also



Dr. Dan Downey- TRUST preceptor, Cynthia- patient, and Julie Campbell -TRUST student in Dillon, MT

established relationships with multiple physicians in town, learning about their journeys to rural medicine and the positives and negatives of their practices. The TRUST program is unique in that not only are you working one on one with multiple different doctors, you are also establishing a long-lasting relationship with them so that when you return you get to pick up where you left off, which I think allows opportunities to progress faster and learn more. My favorite part of the program though, in addition to the hands on experience and strong relationships with mentoring physicians, is interacting with the patients. Unlike the majority of medical school, I will see many of these people again and again each time I return to Dillon. They are the reason I am going into medicine – folks just like me who love their home and work hard. I know that I am getting the full spectrum of medicine as a TRUST scholar by combining my time in Bozeman with future time in Seattle and my numerous experiences in Dillon. Already when I drive into town on Highway 41, it feels like I'm coming home and I cannot wait to see how my bond with Dillon and the broader community grows.

Franklin S. Newman Rural Health Leadership Award

The Franklin S. Newman Rural Health Leadership Award is an award created in memory of Dr. Newman, who truly represented the spirit of Montana in nearly 50 years of service to rural communities and healthcare throughout the state. Recipients of this award reflect Dr. Newman's commitment to rural Montana, his support for health professions, his belief in the young people of our state, and his optimistic view of the future. Dr. Newman traveled to every corner of Montana, worked with rural hospitals and healthcare providers, and believed that communities had the capacity to support high quality healthcare. He helped many people persevere in their goals and hopes, and inspired many young people to pursue their dreams.

In May at the Western Montana Area Health Education Center Advisory Committee Meeting, the Franklin S. Newman Rural Health Leadership Award was presented to Lawrence (Larry) A. White. Mr. White's nomination was submitted by Dr. David Forbes, Dean and Professor of the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Montana. In Dr. Forbes' nomination letter he states, "Larry began his career in the United States Air Force where he served as a Medical Service Corps Officer for eight years in USAF hospitals and dispensaries around the world. Upon discharge, he was Vice President of Marian Health Center in Sioux City, Iowa, Assistant Administrator at St. Anthony Hospital in Amarillo, Texas, and became President of St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center in 1980. In his 23-year career there, he led the development of the regional hospital and health systems that continues to serve many rural areas in western Montana." Upon retirement, Mr. White worked as a consultant, became faculty of the UM School of Public Health and taught courses in Healthcare Reform and Administration Management of Healthcare Systems.

In 2007, Mr. White was the founding director of the

Western Montana Area Health Education Center (WMT AHEC). Though his work with WMT AHEC, he developed numerous programs addressing rural health needs spanning from K-12 education, to the development of the Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana, which started its first class of residents in July of 2013.

Dr. Forbes added, "Larry has devoted his career to the betterment of healthcare in western Montana, including rural areas. He has been tireless in identifying projects and collaborating with a vast array of partners to bring these projects to fruition. He has personally worked in rural areas as a member of critical access hospital boards and as an interim CEO. He has also participated in the teaching of leadership and management skills in rural healthcare settings, as well as in the development of future public health leaders for Montana. His many connections throughout the region and his "can do" approach served him well in these ventures."



Kristin Juliar, Director of the Montana Office of Rural Health presenting the Franklin S. Newman Rural Health Award to Larry White. Missoula, MT May, 2014



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Change Services Requested



NRHA Conference Calendar



Improving the Health of 62 Million Rural Americans
www.RuralHealthWeb.org

July 16-18, 2014

Rural Quality and Clinical Conference
Atlanta, GA

September 30 - October 1, 2014

Rural Health Clinic Conference
Kansas City, MO

October 1-3, 2014

Critical Access Hospital Conference
Kansas City, MO

February 3-5, 2015

Rural Health Policy Institute
Washington, DC

