

The Importance of Rural Physician Training Programs:

- Nearly half of Vermont's primary care physicians have received their training or completed their residency in-state
- Data shows that physicians that are raised in, or have positive formative experiences during their training in rural and underserved communities are significantly more likely to practice in rural under-served areas than their counterparts from non-rural backgrounds (AAMC)
- 2 out of 3 graduates of the Rural Physician Associate Program at the University of Minnesota Medical School have gone on to practice in that state, and 40% of them practice in rural locations.
- Of the 127 doctors who have graduated from the University of Colorado Medical School's rural track since it began in 2005, 35% are practicing in communities that are considered rural or frontier.



Southern Vermont AHEC
368 River Street, Suite 145
Springfield, VT 05156
802-885-2126 info@svtahec.org
www.svtahec.org



Summer Interdisciplinary Projects

AHEC Summer Projects are designed to offer interprofessional, community-based, service-learning opportunities for Nurse Practitioner, Social Work, and Larner College of Medicine students, and other graduate-level health professions students.

These experiences provide students with a deeper understanding of health care in rural Vermont, caring for underserved populations, and the important role of interprofessional practice in public health and primary care.

AHEC supervises the projects, connects the student with community mentors and clinical preceptors, and is a guide and a resource as the project develops.



For Institutions and Organizations that Mentor Students there is an opportunity to:

- Explore a concept in depth, utilizing a medical student’s research skills; do a dive deep into data analysis or explore the latest medical innovations utilizing a student’s knowledge;
- Invigorate your own passion and commitment to your work by engaging and teaching with medical students;
- Expand the interprofessional skills of your team through projects that enhance coordination, communication and cooperation among and between care and service providers;
- Develop or refine a model of collaboration between multiple community and healthy living resources that work together

to address the Social Determinants of Health in your community;

- Establish a connection to a medical student that may leverage future returns for your community through the student returning for a 3rd-year clinical rotation or future employment



Students who you work with will experience the benefits and rewards of rural practice while learning about the unique components of care and life in a rural environment, including

- Caring for under-served populations
- The important role of interprofessional practice in public health and primary care
- How the social determinants of health, such as transportation, health access and housing, can challenge rural patients;
- How work and life balance can be successfully achieved

Some past projects include:

- The roles of a family physician in a community clinic
- Interdisciplinary geriatric care in southern Vermont
- Medical and community resources and support for opioid addiction in rural Vermont
- The effectiveness of exercise programs in controlling chronic medical conditions

Have an idea for a project?

Contact Susan White, SVTAHEC Health Professions Resource Coordinator at swhite@svtahec.org

