Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program

In 2007, the Mississippi Legislature authorized the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program (MRPSP), creating a unique longitudinal program that identifies rural college students who aspire to return to their roots to practice medicine. Academic enrichment, faculty and physician mentoring plus solid medical school financial support through the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program will enable capable young Mississippians to address the challenge of Mississippi's health care crisis. Students can apply for the program as undergraduates or as admitted medical students.

Program Phases

- **PRE-MATRICULATION (Undergraduate Phase):** 20-25 students selected will receive two years (junior and senior year) of undergraduate academic enrichment plus mentoring by a rural physician, MCAT prep materials, medical encounters, rural clinical experience, opportunity for direct admission to UMMC School of Medicine, and consideration for a $30,000 per year medical school scholarship.
- **MEDICAL SCHOOL:** Each MRPSP scholar will be eligible to receive $30,000 per year for medical training, based on available funding. In addition to the scholarship, the scholars benefit from academic support, and continued medical mentoring.
- **RESIDENCY TRAINING:** MRPSP scholars must enter residency training in one of the five primary care specialties: Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine-Pediatrics (Med Peds), OB/GYN, or Pediatrics.
- **INITIAL PRACTICE PHASE**

Application Information

UNDERGRADUATES

September 1 – application opens; February 15 – application deadline

ADMITTED/CURRENT MEDICAL STUDENTS

September 1 – application opens; April 1 – application deadline

Success Matters

- **133** students have received scholarships since 2007.
- Scholars have come from **53** of Mississippi's **82** counties.
- **21%** scholars are minorities; **56%** female, **44%** male.
- **78%** enrolled at UMMC School of Medicine; **22%** enrolled at WCU College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **44** residents; **59%** matched with in-state residency programs and **41%** with out-of-state residency programs.
- Primary care specialties represented in the practicing physicians and residents: **56%** Family Medicine; **17%** Pediatrics; **11%** Medical Pediatrics; **9%** Internal Medicine; **7%** OB/GYN.
- **65** currently in medical school.
- **12** MS universities represented; **14** MS community colleges represented.
- In 2016-2017, **11** MRPSP physicians practicing in Amory, Canton, Clarksdale, Cleveland, Crystal Springs, DeKalb, Ellisville, Kosciusko, Louisville, Purvis, and Sandersville.
- Since its inception, the MS State Legislature has allocated **$10.8** million in scholarships.
- Private funding includes **5** scholarships per year from Medical Assurance Company of MS, Selby and Richard McRae Foundation, Madison Charitable Foundation, Magnolia Health and Teladoc. Additional private funding is provided by organizations such as the Vicksburg Medical Foundation, MS State Medical Association, MS Academy for Family Physicians, MS Rural Health Association, MS Rural Hospital Alliance, State Office of Rural Health and others.
- **48** undergraduates in Pre-Matriculation phase of the program.
- The addition of one physician to a community contributes an average of **$2** million in additional economic output and an average of **21** jobs.
- By 2017, the program will have approximately **25** practicing physicians in rural MS areas.

MISSISSIPPI RURAL PHYSICIANS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Growing Our Own Physicians

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