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From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

Clinical Training Successes in Missouri

Clinical training plays a big role in the MAHEC's "grow your own pipeline". Not only do we recruit local students back to Missouri with our clinical training program, but have recruited students from other states as well.

In the small town of West Plains, Missouri is a small clinic, Ozarks Family Care, which has four family medicine physicians. Out of the four physicians, three trained through the MAHEC system. Scott Roush, DO trained in Poplar Bluff and West Plains, Jason Spurling, MD trained in Rolla, Missouri. Both met in a Missouri residency program and decided to go into practice together in West Plains. The practice grew and several years later another MAHEC student, Derek Morrison, DO, who completed some of his training at Ozarks Family Care with Dr. Roush and Dr. Spurling, joined their practice. These three physicians along with a newer physician, John Washburn, MD, now have a brand new clinic which stays busy with their loyal patients. Drs. Roush and Spurling currently share the role as the Directors of Student Medical Education (DSME).

Karl Shantrom, DO originally from Pueblo, Colorado trained in several southeast Missouri sites and currently practices in Sikeston, Missouri at Missouri Delta Medical Center and with the Family Counseling Center in Kennett, Missouri. Dr. Shantrom has also served as president of the board of directors for the Southeastern Missouri AHEC.

Scott Kirkley, MD originally from Poplar Bluff, Missouri trained in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. As a fourth year student Dr. Kirkley told the SEMO AHEC staff he planned to return to southeast Missouri and serve as Director of Student Medical Education. Today, Dr. Kirkley practices in the small town of Farmington, Missouri, not far from his hometown and has proven to be one of the most proactive DSME's in southeast Missouri. Dr. Kirkley also serves on the board of directors for the Southeastern Missouri AHEC.

One of the largest community based training sites in southeast Missouri is Cape Girardeau (less than 40,000 people) has over 25 practicing physicians who trained through the MAHEC Program. Most have become preceptors as well. Many of these physicians are also involved in lectures and Journal Club presentations with the medical students. One of the Cape Girardeau preceptors, Gretchen Price, DO from the very rural town of Ellsinore (less than 500 people) started working with MAHEC while in the eighth grade has not only become a great physician but a favorite among medical students.

These are just a very few of the many success stories of students who have trained through the MAHEC Pipeline. When students train in small towns they become part of a close knit group of physicians who not only come back to the rural areas to practice, but get involved with the new students coming through. Giving back to the small communities through their local AHEC becomes important to these physicians. MAHEC is very proud of their students and physicians and continues to build a relationship with each and every one.

MAHEC: Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health



Jason Spurling, MD from Mid-Mo AHEC and Scott Roush, DO from SEMO AHEC practicing together at Ozarks Family Care in West Plains, Missouri

MAHEC is a partnership of seven locally-governed organizations and three university-based health professions education programs working statewide to increase the numbers of Missouri youth entering stable, high-paying jobs as healthcare professionals and the numbers of professionals caring for underserved populations.

The MAHEC partners include:

- A.T. Still University – Kirksville
- University of Missouri – Columbia
- Saint Louis University
- Northeast Missouri AHEC – Kirksville
- Northwest Missouri AHEC – St. Joseph
- West Central Missouri AHEC – Lexington
- Mid-Missouri AHEC – Rolla
- East Central Missouri AHEC – St. Louis
- Southeastern Missouri AHEC – Poplar Bluff
- Southwest Missouri AHEC – Springfield