



EXPLORE *rural*

with The RTT Collaborative's
2022 Student Resource Guide

2022 student resource guide

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Hello and Welcome!

We are so excited to share some important updates and opportunities with you in this newsletter! This includes the Rural Residency Fest-which provides students an opportunity to connect directly with rural residency programs from across the country.

In this edition, you will also find [details for a Student Breakfast](#) during the AAFP annual conference. If you are attending this conference July 28th-30th in Kansas City, we hope you will join us for this special event breakfast. We are so inspired by rural-interest students and look forward to connecting with you in-person and online during our summer event series.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [RTTC1 @rttcollaborative.net](mailto:RTTC1@rttcollaborative.net) or Dr. Darin Bell, Associate Director, RTTC2@rttcollaborative.net with questions, comments and ideas for how the RTTC can support your development as a future rural physician leader! Take care and have a great summer,

Hana Hinkle, PhD
Executive Director



Dr. Hana Hinkle
Executive Director

visit our website's student section

Check out www.rttcollaborative.net and visit our [students page](#) for resources, advice and insight specifically compiled for medical students and residents.

Cover photography by Aaron Cain



Helpful Lists for Students

Many of you as rising fourth years are busy making your list – your list of potential programs and perhaps even a list of potential specialties. Unfortunately, for students interested in rural programs in any specialty, some lists can be very confusing. So many lists...from lists of programs at National Conference that “offer rural experiences” to “rural tracks” on FRIEDA and others! I want to take this opportunity to explain at least three lists maintained by The RTT Collaborative:

Participating Programs — A measure of commitment

The RTT Collaborative is a board-directed cooperative of programs across the nation with an interest in preparing physicians and other health professionals for rural practice. Here is a link to [a list and map of our participating programs](#). For an annual fee any education or training program in any specialty is eligible to participate. Residency program participation is an important reflection of the program’s commitment to preparing residents for rural practice.



Rural Programs in Residency — A measure of location of training

The RTT Collaborative updates a number of lists every 6 months as part of an EXCEL workbook that includes residencies in family medicine, internal medicine, psychiatry, and general surgery where all residents receive >50% of their training in a rural place. This is [available for download here](#). We also maintain [an interactive map of rural residency programs](#). Rural programs have been shown to produce rural doctors at three times the rate of programs in urban locations and are an excellent place to learn rural medicine in context.

Programs with a record of producing a large percentage (or a large number) of physicians to rural practice — A measure of program outcomes

A couple years ago a few urban programs complained that they too were producing rural doctors and wanted that to be acknowledged – they wanted to be on our map! So, we created [the Rural Recognition Program](#) acknowledging any family medicine program that, on a 3-year rolling average, sends >35% of their graduates (or >3 graduates per year) to an initial rural place of practice. It is not a complete list. Programs who participate must submit new data each year, and, for any number of reasons, some programs do not apply for recognition. In addition, some excellent new programs do not have three years of graduates and cannot yet be recognized. This list is published on our website each year in July, [accessed here](#).

Finally, The RTT Collaborative offers [several tools](#) in searching for a program that best fits your needs, and may be helpful to you as you wind your way through the upcoming application, interview and match season, [available here](#).

“Questions to Ask of a Residency Program” | “Finding Rural Programs in Other Specialties”

Finding a rural program in specialties other than Family Medicine can be especially difficult, and even our lists may be incomplete. If you find a rural program that is not on our list, we’d love to hear about it! Just send the name of the program to rttc-admin@rttcollaborative.net. Best wishes as you make your own list!

fest, fair, and conference

Are you already thinking about the upcoming recruiting season? This summer, The RTT Collaborative is hosting an online event and several in-person events for students wishing to explore rural options for residency.

Rural Residency Fest + Fair – *online* (With a focus on rural FM, IM, Psych, and Surgery)

Tuesday, July 19, 2022 7:00-9:00 p.m. EST (6:00-8:00 p.m. CT, 5:00-7:00 p.m. MT, 4:00-6:00 p.m. PT)

Join us for [the Rural Residency Fest and Fair](#) to learn more about rural residency options across specialties and across the nation. This event will address alternatives for rural training in any specialty, and will feature invited panelists in from residency programs across the country. There will be discussions focused for med students in years 1&2 as well as 3&4. There will also be a virtual residency fair to allow you to explore programs and options prior to the upcoming residency recruiting season.

Only students may register to receive a secure link to this event. [Registration opens July 1, 2022 here.](#)

Explore Rural at the AAFP National Conference (Family Medicine)

Thursday through Saturday, July 28-30, 2022

If you plan to attend this year's AAFP National Conference online, be sure to visit The RTT Collaborative booth #1209, the "heart of rural" and a place to come for answers to your rural questions. Anyone who stops by the booth will receive a free annual membership in [National Rural Health Association](#). As a student member of NRHA, you may join a Student Constituency Group.

RTT Collaborative Participating Programs exhibiting at 2022

National Conference The RTT Collaborative is a cooperative of 72 rural programs in medical school and residency across the United States. [Click here to view the full list of residency programs](#) at National Conference, including their booth numbers.

Join us for Breakfast at National Conference!

Calling all students attending National Conference! Please [register for a special inquiry breakfast](#) on rural training opportunities in medical school and residency from 7:30-8:30am on Saturday morning, July 30, in the [Hotel Phillips](#). During this hot sit-down breakfast, courtesy of The RTT Collaborative and the Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural GME, you will have the opportunity to engage with other students and residents in conversation, facilitated by rural faculty. We are interested in today's students' questions and perspectives regarding rural residencies, including rurally-located programs and rural training tracks, and their understanding of the opportunities and challenges of rural practice.

Deadline to register is July 22. We will be filling the group on a first come, first serve basis, so don't delay! Come visit us at booth 1209 at National Conference to learn more or [visit our website](#).



RTT Participating Programs at National Conference

*The following programs will be exhibiting, and we hope you will stop by and visit!!
Watch for our logo (above) at booths in the exhibit hall (also identified on the map below)*

| Booth | Program Name | City, State |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| 1026 | Adventist Health Ukiah Valley | Ukiah, CA |
| 1810 | Southern CO FMR - Alamosa Rural Track Program | Alamosa, CO |
| 1821 | North CO Family Medicine - Sterling and Wray Rural Training Program | Sterling, Wray, CO |
| 1813 | University of CO - FMR Fort Morgan Rural Training Program | Ft. Morgan, CO |
| 2127 | UIC Gibson Rural Track | Gibson City, IL |
| 1214 | KU - Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas FMR | Pittsburg, KS |
| 2028 | Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana | Kallispell, MT |
| 1215 | University of ND Center for FM - Hettinger | Hettinger, ND |
| 1217 | University of ND Center for FM - Williston | Williston, ND |
| 829 | Providence Hood River FM Rural Residency Program | Hood River, OR |
| 827 | OHSU - Cascades East Family Medicine Residency | Klamath Falls, OR |
| 833 | Roseburg Family Medicine Residency | Roseburg, OR |
| 715 | Indiana Regional Medical Center Rural Family Medicine Residency Program | Indiana, PA |
| 818 | LVHN - Schuylkill Rural Family Medicine Residency Program | Pottsville, PA |
| 1530 | McLeod Health Rural Family Medicine Residency Program | Manning, Cheraw, SC |
| 1205 | Pierre Rural Family Medicine Residency | Pierre, SD |
| 1927 | Providence St. Peter FM - Summit Pacific Rural Training Program | Elma, WA |
| 1832 | UW School of Medicine Chelan Family Medicine Residency Rural Program | Chelan, WA |
| 1831 | Swedish Family Medicine Residency Cherry Hill | Port Angeles, WA |
| 618 | Univeristy of WI Rural Health Equity Track | Madison, WI |
| 620 | University of WI FMRP - Rural Program | Baraboo, WI |
| 614 | University of WI Aurora Lakeland FMR Program | Elkhorn, WI |
| 2030 | Thermopolis Wyoming RTT | Thermopolis, WY |

Information regarding rural training and placement

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1202 | 3RNet | Jefferson City, MO |
| 1209 | The RTT Collaborative | Athens, OH |

*Please visit us at Booth
#1209 for assistance
in navigating this
landscape!*

[View the updated
Program List here](#)

[Click here to enlarge
the Floor Plan](#)



RESOURCES

Connect with Peers Interested in Rural Medicine - AAFP Rural Interest Group

The Rural Health Member Interest Group's (MIG) goal is to virtually connect those in rural practice and those with an interest in rural practice, to reduce professional isolation and improve knowledge. The MIG is a forum to celebrate the pleasures, troubleshoot the difficulties, and navigate the complexities of rural medicine. Discussions range from advocacy to lifestyle questions, practical office tips, and local or national opportunities for education. We welcome questions from students and residents and maintain a list of rural sites willing to take learners on rotation. The group holds an annual meeting at both National Conference and FMX. Check out the MIG online at <https://www.aafp.org/membership/welcome-center/involve/connect/mig.html> and join us virtually at National Conference this year to explore and share your passion for rural medicine!

Discover Your Future Rural Healthcare - 3RNet

3RNet is a unique job board that helps mission-minded providers find a job in a rural or underserved setting. A non-profit organization backed by a national network of members, their goal is to help you find the RIGHT job, not just any job. Find answers about loan repayment, J-1 visa waiver job searches, and incentive programs from those who live and work in the state you are considering. Connect by calling or texting 1-800-787-2512, emailing info@3rnet.org by reaching out to any 3RNet member (<https://www.3rnet.org/locations>).

Explore Rural Health and Healthcare - RHHub

Funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, RHHub (<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/>) is dedicated to providing free, relevant, and up-to-date resources covering a variety of rural health topics. They have an assortment of resources and opportunities for healthcare professionals and students including rural health issues and interventions, Rural Training Track residency programs and rotations, a guide to scholarships and loans, and customized assistance through its Resource & Referral Service. Get daily or weekly updates through the weekly newsletter or through custom alerts that allow you to receive updates on the specific topics and locations of interest (<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/alerts>)

Join a Network of Students Interested in Rural Practice – NRHA

Comprised of professional healthcare students with an interest in serving rural communities, the [National Rural Health Association's \(NRHA\) Student Constituency Group](#) contributes to and benefits from networks and member resources. Students can connect with and learn from residency directors, policy makers, and rural health leaders at NRHA's yearly events.

The student group maintains a list of national and state-specific resources that can you connected with healthcare providers, professional organizations, and academic institutions supporting rural physician education and practice. In addition, NRHA State Based Programs help individuals connect with state and regional rural health associations covering 43 states.

Contact nrhastudent@gmail.com with questions or stop by The RTT Collaborative booth #1209 at AAFP National Conference and receive a free one-year membership.

Board Positions Available

for students and residents

how to apply

The RTT Collaborative is looking to appoint a medical student and resident representative to our Board for a one-year term for calendar year 2023. Responsibilities include quarterly online meetings (using ZOOM), one of which is an in-person meeting usually in association with the Annual Meeting. This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 5-7, 2023, in Missoula, MT. The student and resident member will receive a stipend for travel and free registration to the Annual Meeting.

To be eligible, a student must be a participant in a medical school rural program. Preference will be given to those students from medical schools who are currently [participants in The RTT Collaborative](#). Residents must be from a rural residency on our [map of rural programs](#), and as above, preference will be given to residents from RTTC participating programs,

If you are interested in becoming a student or resident representative to the Board, [click here to complete an application](#) before September 1, 2022. You will be asked to include a letter of interest explaining why you believe you are a good candidate for this position. Students should include a letter of support from their medical school's rural program director and residents from their residency program director.

Questions should be directed to [Hana Hinkle](#), RTTC's Executive Director or [Darin Bell](#), the Associate Director.

Student Board Representative



Victoria Vorward is currently an MS3 at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and a member of its Rural Program

Resident Board Representative



David Nitschmann, MD is a resident (PGY3) at North Colorado Medical Center/ Sterling RTT

Student Board Representative



Araminta "Minta" Ray is a fourth-year medical student at East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine in Johnson City, TN.

Featured Programs with a Proven Track Record of Producing Rural Physicians

There are many residency programs with the stated goal of producing rural physicians, and there are many programs that provide high quality rural training. The RTT Collaborative (or “rural training collaborative”) is invested in providing students interested in rural training and practice with good information regarding their options.

A “rural program” is an accredited program in which residents spend more than 50% of their time training in a rural place. For a more complete description and an article about rural residency program definitions [click here or visit the RTT Collaborative website for an interactive map of rural residencies](#) in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, and General Surgery. However, there are a significant number of rurally focused programs that do not meet the above definition, and yet produce many rural doctors.

Each year the RTT Collaborative recognizes residency programs across the country who consistently place residents into practice in rural communities after graduation. All programs, regardless of setting or specialty are encouraged to submit their graduate placement results for the prior three years to earn this recognition.

The following programs applied for recognition and have achieved a level of rural graduate placement worthy of Rural Recognition (>35% or >3 graduates per year), and a few are worthy of Special Recognition for rates exceeding the documented average for rural programs (>50% rural placement).

| Special Recognition (>50% per year) | Location | Percentage | Average number of rural grads |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| North Colorado Family Medicine Residency Rural Training Program | Wray, CO | 100% | |
| North Colorado Family Medicine Residency Rural Training Program | Sterling, CO | 75% | 1.5 |
| University of Wisconsin (Baraboo) Rural Program | Baraboo, WI | 83% | 1.6 |
| Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana | Missoula/Kalispell, MT | 63% | 6.3 |
| University of Kansas (Wichita) / Via Christi Hospitals Wichita Program | Wichita, KS | 52% | 9.3 |
| Montana Family Medicine Residency | Billings, MT | 52% | 4.3 |
| University of Minnesota/Centracare St. Cloud Family Medicine Residency | St. Cloud, MN | 50% | 2.7 |
| Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital Family Medicine RT | Hood River, OR | 50% | 1 |
| Rural Recognition (>35% or >3 residents per year) | | | |
| North Colorado Family Medicine Residency Core Program | Greely, CO | 47% | 3.5 |
| Maine-Dartmouth Family Medicine Program | Augusta, ME | 45% | 4.7 |
| University of Missouri Family Medicine Residency | Columbia, MO | 33% | 4 |

If a program is not listed, it could be that the program has less than 3 years of graduates to report or has simply not applied for recognition this year. Encourage them to apply next year!

For an interactive map of rural programs in Family Medicine in the United States, [visit the Student section of The RTT Collaborative website](#); for questions please [email Dr. Bell](#), Associate Director, RTT Collaborative.



1st place

*"Experiencing Remoteness"
Aaron Cain, Salt Lake, Utah*

Photo Contest

What does rural health education look like?
Submit your photos that depict your experience in rural health care education [here!](#)

The top three winners receive a cash prize, with the first place winner receiving **\$250** for the win. Stay tuned for the new photo contest announcements!



[[View all photo contest winners here](#)]

— NOW ACCEPTING APPLICANTS —
Submit your photos [here](#) for consideration