

**DIVERSITY AND COLLABORATION OF OHIO'S MEDICAL SCHOOLS ON  
RURAL PROGRAMMING:  
THE RURAL PHYSICIAN TRAINING PATHWAYS (RPTP) MODEL**

**RURAL MEDICAL TRAINING COLLABORATIVE  
Annual meeting  
Asheville, NC  
April 12, 2024**

**Ohio Rural Physician Training Pathways**



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the structure and design of Ohio medical school rural programming
- Illustrate a collaborative learning network model among classically competitive institutions
- Preview initial characteristics of Ohio's medical students in pipelines to rural practice via shared metrics among RPTP partner institutions and preliminary outcomes of pathway participants entering independent practice.



OHIO RPTP  
MEMBERS

Sharron DiMario, MHA

– **University of Cincinnati College of Medicine**

Lori Martensen, MS

– **The Ohio State University College of Medicine**

Michael Appleman, MA & Alex Heintzelman, MD

– **Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED)**

Sharon Casapulla, EdD, MPH & Dawn Mollica

– **Ohio University, Heritage College of  
Osteopathic Medicine**

Jayna Vossler, MS

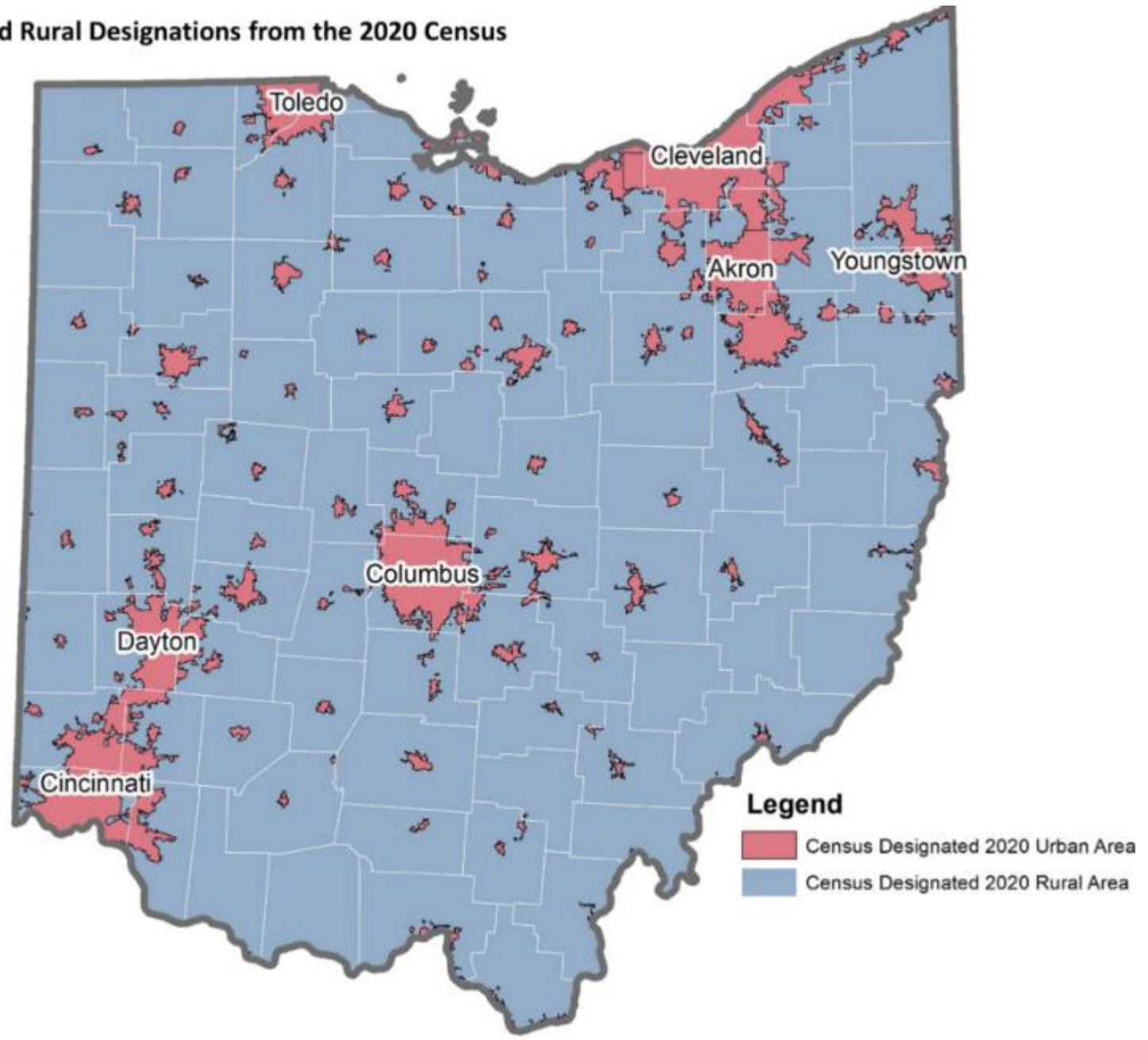
– **Wright State University, Boonshoft School of  
Medicine**

# RURAL PHYSICIAN TRAINING PROGRAMS





### Urban and Rural Designations from the 2020 Census



# MED ED LANDSCAPE IN OHIO

## Home to 7.5 medical schools

- Six public, one private, one in development
- Six allopathic, two osteopathic
- ~1,200 - 1,300 graduates per year

## Desegregated AHEC system

## Ohio Rural Health Association

## State Office of Rural Health



# NORTHEAST OHIO MEDICAL UNIVERSITY (NEOMED) RURAL MEDICAL EDUCATION PATHWAY (RMED)



Pilot of 8 students in 2015, now up to 16 students per class

Curricular Integration and Co-curricular Experiences

Program Components:

Peer grouping of RMED students (Interviewing Seminar, Reflective Practice, Physical Exam Lab) to foster longitudinal peer-peer & peer-faculty relationships

PACE - Rural placements for initial clinical exposures during M1/M2

Rural exposure in FM, EM, Peds rotations. Rural M4 Elective encouraged.

Co-curricular Rural Seminar series, Peer mentorship, capstone project, and Health Coaching Service-Learning activities

Model for our other University Pathways – total enrollment = ~140 (of 600 med



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY MEDICINE TRACK

Start-up Endeavor

Rural-serving regional campus in Lima, OH for The Ohio State University

2+2 medical school training (pre-clinical years in Columbus, clinical years in rural-serving Lima)

Begins Summer 2024

15 Students per cohort





# OHIO UNIVERSITY HERITAGE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE OFFICE OF RURAL AND UNDERSERVED PROGRAMS



Continuity in Family Medicine - LIC

Rural and Urban Scholars Pathways (RUSP) Program

Pilot of 8 students in 2013, now 140 enrolled

Co-curricular Experiences

Programing Components:

- Clinical Jazz – clinical reflection groups monthly

- Individual coaching with physician

- Professional development activities

- Mentored scholarly activity; opportunity for funding

- Individual immersion between OMS1/OSM2

- Group immersion



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## RURAL HEALTH SCHOLARS



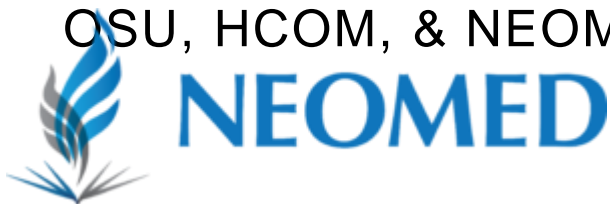
Founded to promote Rural Medical Education and Practice to all Ohio medical students

Entering its 23<sup>rd</sup> year this Autumn

Our purpose is to “appreciate the rural life, and to understand and aspire to [scholarly] rural practice” (John Wheat MD, Salt Lake City, 2003)

Varying theme to teach intricacies of rural training, practice, culture, health, and healthcare.

Partnership between OSU and OU HCOM in the 2010s,  
OSU, HCOM, & NEOMED in the 2020s





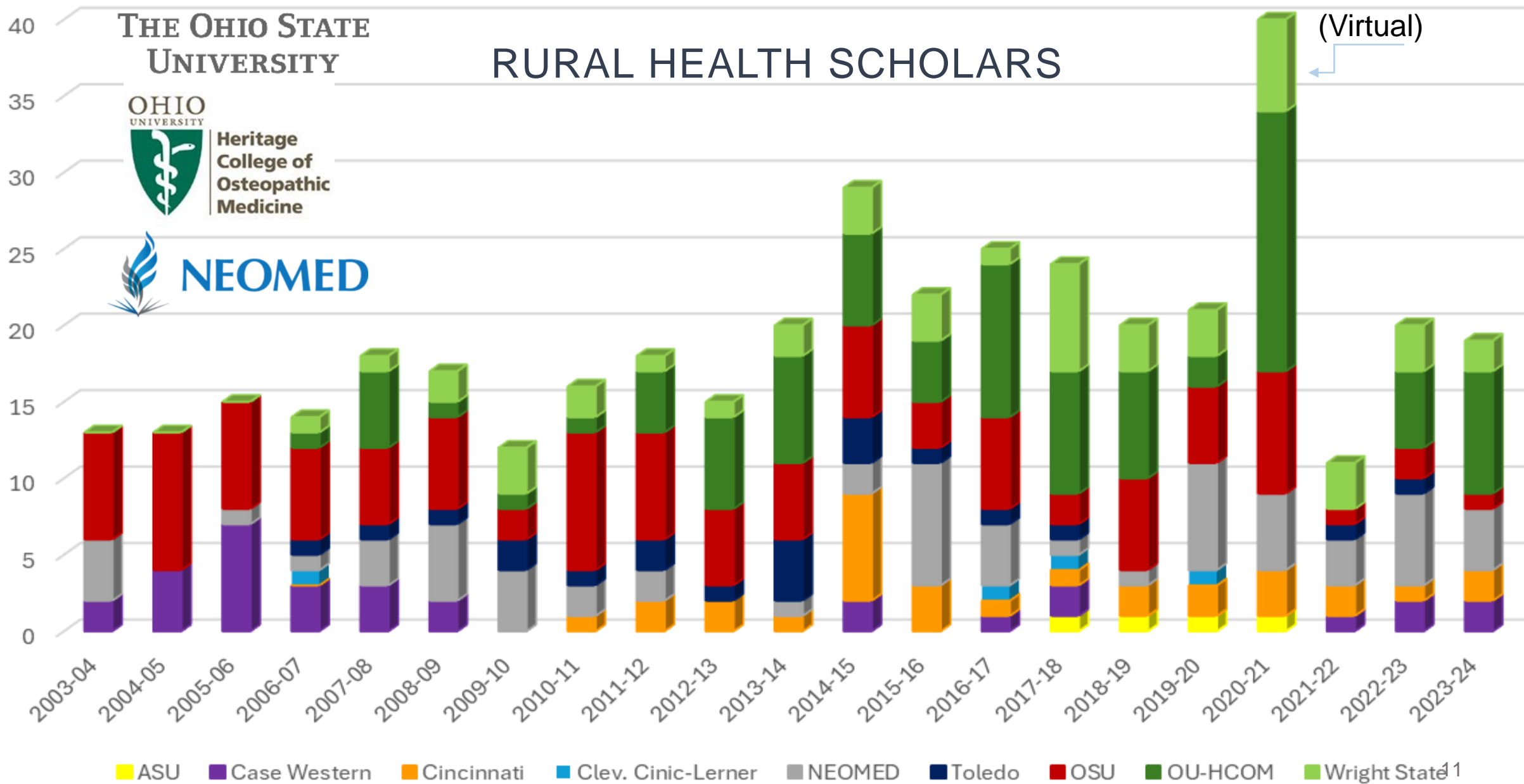
# RHS Ohio Med School Representation 2003-2023

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



## RURAL HEALTH SCHOLARS

(Virtual)





# WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY BOONSHOFT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE WRIGHT RURAL MEDICAL SCHOLARS



“Soft” start in 2014; “strong” start in 2016

Mission: To develop and nurture physicians pursuing rural medical practice in Ohio

Three Phases of Development

Medical School

95% clinical experiences in rural communities

Single clinical experiences ---- Rural Pathway

In development: Longitudinal Integrated Curriculum

Residency

1+2 RTT in FM starting in 2023

Pipeline



## UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI RURAL HEALTH TRACK

AHEC – History of Rural Rotations (1978 – 2006)

Creation of Student Rural Interest Group (2017)

Collaborating with DFCM Scholars – Summer Immersion (2021)

# OHIO RURAL PATHWAYS SUMMIT: DECEMBER 2019



Why and how we started

Ohio has more rural medical  
education pathway programs  
than any other state

Relationships

Common mission



# OHIO RPTP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## MISSION STATEMENT: TO RESEARCH AND PROMOTE BEST PRACTICES THAT TRAIN AND GROW OHIO'S RURAL PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

- Circulated program evaluation tools to strengthen pathway curricula
- Developed shared metrics for program evaluation on admission and graduation from the pathways
- Collaborated on an Ohio rural residency fair
- Promoted rural health and training through a shared social media takeover at home universities
- Created student scholarly opportunities at state and national conferences
- Generated newsworthy buzz for home universities highlighting leadership at the state level



## INITIAL RPTP PROGRAM DATA TRENDS



COMBINED  
OUTCOME  
DATA

-  
WRIGHT  
STATE

-  
HCOM

-  
NEOMED

625 Ohio  
Medical  
Student Lives  
Touched With  
Intentional  
Rural Medical  
Education  
Since 2015!

| Graduating class | Number of students enrolled | # Stayed in Ohio for residency | # FM residency | # Primary Care Residency | # Primary Care Res in Ohio | # Practicing in Ohio | # Primary Care Practicing in Ohio |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2015             | 4                           | 2                              | 0              | 2                        | 1                          | 3                    | 0                                 |
| 2016             | 11                          | 7                              | 3              | 5                        | 4                          | 7                    | 5                                 |
| 2017             | 27                          | 14                             | 17             | 21                       | 12                         | 9                    | 8                                 |
| 2018             | 45                          | 26                             | 17             | 22                       | 15                         | 23                   | 18                                |
| 2019             | 47                          | 24                             | 14             | 26                       | 16                         | 21                   | 10                                |
| 2020             | 55                          | 25                             | 15             | 27                       | 16                         | 12                   | 9                                 |
| 2021             | 50                          | 20                             | 15             | 27                       | 15                         |                      |                                   |
| 2022             | 74                          | 37                             | 23             | 39                       | 28                         |                      |                                   |
| 2023             | 73                          | 27                             | 15             | 29                       | 16                         |                      |                                   |
| 2024             | 68                          | 34                             | 14             | 22                       | 14                         |                      |                                   |
| 2025             | 67                          |                                |                |                          |                            |                      |                                   |
| 2026             | 60                          |                                |                |                          |                            |                      |                                   |
| 2027             | 44                          |                                |                |                          |                            |                      |                                   |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>625</b>                  | <b>216</b>                     | <b>133</b>     | <b>220</b>               | <b>137</b>                 | <b>75</b>            | <b>50</b>                         |

## RPTP ALIGNED METRICS

- Age** – “What year were you born?”
- Gender** – “What is your gender?”
- Birth state** – “In what state were you born?”
- Rurality of childhood** – “Was the place where you grew up rural / urban / suburban / something different?”
- Pipeline participation** – “Did you participate in a rural education pipeline in high school or college? If so, what was it called?”
- Pathway influence on specialty** – “Describe rural pathway activities that influenced your specialty choice. Leave blank if there were none.”
- Time spent training in a rural setting** – “Consider your pathway experiences and medical school training. Estimate how many weeks were spent training in a rural setting.”
- Residency specialty** – “What residency specialty did you match?”
- Residency characteristics** – “What characteristics of your matched residency drew you to the program?”
- Residency rural focus** – “Does your residency have a rural focus? If so, how?”
- Commitment to a rural pipeline program** – “Did you commit to any rural pipeline program as a part of residency or required experience following residency? If so, what is it called?”

WRIGHT STATE  
UNIVERSITY BOONSHOFT  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

- **Danielle B.** - Born and raised in rural Mercer County in Ohio
- Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from University of Cincinnati, OH
- Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary Education from American University, DC
- Math Teacher, EMT, Coach in rural Ohio
- Coursework at Lake Campus in Celina, OH
- Joined WSU BSOM/Rural Medical Scholar–2021
  - OAFP Summer Preceptorship M1/M2
  - 10 Rural Clinical Rotations M3
  - MD in THREE Graduate 2024
- WSU BSOM Rural Family Medicine Residency Program in Greenville, OH
- Plans to practice in rural Western Ohio!



“Returning to their communities, physicians from rural areas have the unique advantage of breaking down healthcare barriers more effectively. Members of rural communities need more physicians who are seen as one of their own. As a resident and first responder of a rural county, I have seen the challenges that my community faces firsthand. Rural areas desperately need more physicians who are from or are members of the communities they serve. After completing my training, I will continue to serve my community as a physician and help break down barriers to healthcare for my family, friends, and neighbors.”

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**Danielle Bornhorst**  
Rural Family Medicine Resident



- **Kate S.** - Born and raised in SE Ohio
- Attended Shawnee State College for undergrad
- Joined HCOM – 2018
- Joined RUSP as OMS1
  - Participated in RUSP Immersion
  - Participated in mentored community-based research project
- Participated in year long LIC program in OMSIII
- Matched to Oblesness FM Residency 2022

## Heritage College Of Osteopathic Medicine



*“Especially here, I can relate to people a lot easier. I feel like there's this opportunity for me to build this relationship with my patients and truly have a collaborative effort to improve their own health and reach their goals. Coming from a rural aspect, I just feel like that's where I belong,” she says.*



# NORTHEASTERN OHIO MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

- **Megan B.** - Born and raised in small-town NE Ohio
- Attended Youngstown State University for undergrad
- Joined NEOMED / RMED – 2015
- Primary Ambulatory Care Experience in M1/M2 in rural Columbiana, OH. Health Coach Program Participant. First generation college student & MD.
- Residency in FM in Concord, NH (Dartmouth)
- Serving Rural Rutland County, VT as an Attending Physician!



**Megan Bennett, MD,  
Knows that Understanding  
Someone's Background  
Makes all the Difference**

Bennett has joined Rutland Regional's hospital medicine team where she brings her experience in trauma-informed care to patients who "may be experiencing the worst day of their lives."

Bachelor of Science in Combined Sciences,  
Youngstown University

Doctor of Medicine, Northeast Ohio  
Medical University

NH Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency,  
Concord Hospital

"Keeping the humanity in  
healthcare is really important  
to me."

 **Rutland Regional  
Medical Center**

160 Allen Street, Rutland VT  
802.775.7111  
www.RRMC.org



HOW CAN WE BUILD A  
BRIDGE BETWEEN  
MEDICAL EDUCATION  
AND GRADUATE MEDICAL  
EDUCATION?

- Rural Residency Networks?
- RPTP As Equitable Mediator To Our Students?
- Rural Elective Rotations?
- Rural Preclinical Summer Experiences?

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