

## Longenecker Rural Faculty Development Fund

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### Abstract:

The [RTT Collaborative](#) (RTTC) is committed to sustaining health professions education of all types in rural places, with an initial focus on physician education. A restricted fund, initiated with a directed donation from Dr. Longenecker, will be established within The RTT Collaborative to prepare Family Medicine faculty who live, clinically work, and teach in a rural place (using any federally accepted definition of “rural”) to become even better educators and, preferably, program directors of residency programs located in rural communities. The Board of The RTT Collaborative shall be the overseer for this fund.

### Objectives:

1. Encourage the development of family medicine faculty who live, work, and teach in rural places
2. Preferentially train program directors for rurally located residency programs in family medicine

### Rationale:

The [RTT Collaborative](#) (RTTC) is committed to sustaining health professions education of all types in rural places, with an initial focus on physician education. This restricted fund within The RTT Collaborative will be used to prepare Family Medicine faculty who live, clinically work, and teach in a rural place (using any federally accepted definition of “rural”) to become even better educators and, preferably, program directors of residency programs located in rural communities.

As one example of rurally-relevant faculty development, the NIPDD fellowship program, sponsored by the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD) and directed by an Academic Council, has an outstanding history of preparing program directors for the challenging task of directing and/or assisting in the directorship of FM residency programs – rural and urban. The [RTT Technical Assistance Program](#) (RTT-TA), a cooperative agreement funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, has provided scholarships to NIPDD Rural Fellows for the purpose of developing leaders in rural training track residency programs for the past 5 years: 3 in 2011-2012, 5 in 2012-2013, 3 in 2013-2014, 3 in 2014-2015, and potentially 3 in 2015-2016. This grant expired in August of 2016, and The RTT Collaborative, the sustainable non-profit that emerged from this grant, will continue this funding stream for rural faculty using this restricted fund, including additional donations directed to the fund and any monies generated by the fund through investment. The Collaborative will also work to integrate fellowship activities into its Annual Meeting and supplement the content of NIPDD or any other faculty development program in the future through rural mentorship.

The RTT Collaborative has expanded its focus beyond that of the RTT-TA program to include rurally focused medical education programs of all types, medical school and residency, allopathic and osteopathic, even regional consortia, that promote medical education geographically located in rural places. The Board of The RTT Collaborative oversees this fund, including but not limited to annually setting criteria for applicant eligibility and for distributing scholarships, adding to the fund individually or corporately through directed contributions, and reviewing applications for its use. At the discretion of the RTTC Board, the annual yield from this restricted fund shall be used to fund scholarships or stipends for NIPDD or other equivalent faculty development programs. If the Board so chooses, they may also allocate a portion of the fund principal to match contributions to the fund in meeting the expenses of this initiative for any program year. This will allow diversion of the principal to

current use, but only if additional charitable contributions, intended either for the restricted fund or for current use, warrant it, or if the Board strategically chooses to decrease the principal amount. If The RTT Collaborative dissolves as an organization, then the Board at that time will direct an individual or group to oversee the fund in subsequent years. If for any reason the RTTC Board is unable to do so, the remaining principal will be donated to the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) Foundation for a similar purpose.

A personal donation from Dr. Longenecker established the fund, and contributions are encouraged to grow the fund to at least \$100,000. A principal of \$100,000, through annual 5% appreciation, would potentially support a single scholarship a year in perpetuity, or two scholarships a year for ~15-20 years. The fund balance as of July 1, 2016, is just under \$50,000. Donations are welcome at <http://rttcollaborative.net/give/>.