

Summer Experiences for Medical Students *July 2013*

In an effort to address physician shortages in Missouri, all three Missouri AHEC program offices, University of Missouri, AT Still University/Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Saint Louis University implemented programs for students completing their first year of medical school to experience rotations in rural and urban communities.

Through participation in the summer programs, students have the opportunity to increase their knowledge of rural and urban practice in community-based primary care; begin to forge linkages with communities across Missouri; improve their clinical skills in history-taking, physical examination, assessment, and medical management; explore common acute and chronic clinical problems; become familiar with the types of clinical problems prevented or managed by a physician providing primary or related care in a medically underserved area; recognize the importance of community resources in achieving and maintaining health; and compare medical practice in a community setting to practice in an academic health center.

During the summer of 2013:

17 students from the University of Missouri trained in 18 different sites. These rotations were four, six or eight week rotations, primarily with primary care providers in rural areas.

168 students from Kirksville College of Medicine trained for two weeks each in 106 sites, mostly primary care sites in underserved areas. .

5 students from SLU engaged in a 6-week summer preceptorship with community-based family medicine physicians that included 20+ hours per week in the clinic and additional hours participating in community health service projects.

Comment from a student who completed a summer rotation in 2012: "This experience was my first time being in a rural setting. One of the aspects I loved most about the doctor's practice was the continuity of care, which I think is more easily fostered within a smaller community. I believe that these experiences will positively influence any decisions I make regarding medical specialty and practice location."



Photo: Lauren Miles spent time with Dr. Aaron Burke in rural 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