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### **MU AHEC PROGRAM EXPANSION OFFERS MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR UNDERGRADS INTERESTED IN RURAL MEDICINE**

Since 1995, eligible undergraduate college students from rural areas in Missouri have been pre-admitted to medical school at MU. “Students with rural backgrounds are more likely to practice in these underserved areas when compared to their classmates from urban areas,” said Kathleen Quinn, Ph.D., associate dean for rural health and director of the MU Area Health Education Center. “Our Rural Track Program is uniquely positioned to support MU’s rural mission and benefit interested students by helping train and prepare them for practice in rural communities.” Pre-admitted students are required to achieve certain academic standards, demonstrate ongoing professional conduct and participate in required activities.

The University of Missouri School of Medicine recently expanded the Bryant Scholars Pre-Admissions Program to train more physicians to practice in rural areas of Missouri. Seven additional universities throughout the state were added, bringing the total number of eligible institutions to 13. Students from the following schools are currently eligible for the program:

- Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph
- Missouri Southern State University, Joplin
- Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Truman State University, Kirksville
- Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla
- Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau
- William Jewell College, Liberty
- Westminster College, Fulton
- University of Missouri-St. Louis
- Drury University, Springfield
- Missouri State University, Springfield
- University of Missouri, Columbia

In July, the University of Missouri School of Medicine accepted a new class of Bryant Scholars. Of the newly accepted students, three have been active participants in MAHEC programming since high school.

Hannah Ford from Osborn, Missouri, Shanon Luke from Stanberry, Missouri, and Traci Shipps from Maryville, Missouri have been actively involved with Northwest Missouri AHEC since high school. Over the next two years, all three students will participate in the Bryant Scholars Program to prepare them for matriculation to MU School of Medicine.

Currently, Hannah attends William Jewell College in Liberty, Shanon attends the University of Missouri in Columbia, and Traci attends Truman State University in Kirksville. With the expansion we hope to reach more rural students who have an interest in medicine.

For more information about the Bryant Scholars Program, please visit <http://medicine.missouri.edu/ahec/pre-admissions>



*Hannah Ford and Shanon Luke, newly accepted Bryant Scholars, during an AHEC workshop.*

*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

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