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University of Missouri Expands Bryant Scholars Program

The University of Missouri School of Medicine is expanding its Bryant Scholars Program, a program designed to train more physicians to practice in rural areas, to all four-year universities and colleges in Missouri.

“The MU School of Medicine is in a key position to increase the physician workforce in rural Missouri,” said Kathleen Quinn, Ph.D., associate dean for rural health. “Medical students who have grown up in rural Missouri are more likely to practice in those areas, when compared to their classmates from urban areas. This expansion will help keep rural students in Missouri for medical school and, ultimately, rural practice.”

Seventy-seven percent of Bryant Scholars now practice in Missouri, and 69 percent of that group practice in rural locations. The program is a cooperative effort among Missouri colleges and universities, the Missouri Area Health Education Centers (MAHEC), and the MU School of Medicine. Through the program, eligible undergraduate college students are pre-admitted to medical school at MU. These undergraduate students are required to achieve certain academic standards and demonstrate ongoing professional conduct.

Bryant Scholars make a commitment to a career in rural medicine, possess personal characteristics expected of quality physicians and have a rural background. MAHEC helps MU identify qualified candidates through their work with youth.

“There are 104 seats available in a current MU School of Medicine class, and up to 15 of those are reserved for Bryant Scholars,” said Quinn. “Each year, MU receives close to 2,000 applications for medical school, so being pre-admitted into the program is a huge benefit for students.”

Bryant Scholars experience MU School of Medicine’s curriculum during undergraduate school. and are required to participate in a mentorship program with a rural physician, job shadow and devote time to career guidance and professional development.

MU AHEC works with the MAHEC regional centers that coordinate rotations for Bryant Scholars in their second, third and fourth years of medical school, providing multiple opportunities to learn from community-based providers. These rural clinical experiences, with community based faculty, are an important influence on a student’s decision to practice in a small community.

The Bryant Scholars Program began in 1995 as part of the Rural Track Pipeline Program at the MU School of Medicine. It is named after Lester Bryant, M.D., who served as dean of the MU School of Medicine from 1989 to 1998 and created the program to address the shortage of physicians in Missouri. For more information about the Bryant Scholars Program, please visit <http://medicine.missouri.edu/ahec/>.

*Senior Bryant Scholars
attending
2015 Summer Retreat*

MAHEC is a partnership of seven locally-governed organizations and three university-based health professions education programs working statewide to increase the number of Missouri youth entering stable, high-paying jobs as healthcare professionals and the number 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