



West Alabama Rural Health Initiative

The primary care provider shortage remains an overwhelming obstacle to improving health outcomes in Alabama, especially in rural communities.

The West Alabama Rural Health Initiative (WARHI) is excited to offer first-year medical students an opportunity to participate in a summer rural medical experience across west Alabama, July 16 – 22, 2017. WARHI is a consortium of organizations located in West Alabama who are dedicated to improving access to healthcare. Consortium partners include the University of West Alabama, the West Central Alabama Area Health Education Center (AHEC), and the Tombigbee Healthcare Authority.

Goal: To provide first-year medical students with the opportunity to explore rural communities as possible rotation sites to increase the likelihood of choosing rural clinical rotations in their third and fourth years of medical school, influence residency selections towards primary care, and ultimately serve as a healthcare provider recruitment tool for rural Alabama communities.

Program Description: WARHI is a one week summer rural immersion program for medical students who have completed their first year of school. Students will tour west Alabama healthcare facilities and learn about the surrounding communities, participate in cultural competency activities (i.e. civil rights, farm, and historical tours), experience activities that highlight the impact of social determinants of health (i.e. rural poverty simulation and conduct environmental scans), and meet with community representatives to discuss community healthcare needs. Students will document their experiences with mini-cams that will be compiled into a short documentary. Room and board will be provided. Housing will be located at the newly-renovated [Martin Stewart](#) community building in downtown Greensboro, Alabama, which features a commercial kitchen, classroom spaces, and dormitory-style living quarters for men and women. Take advantage of this summer to not only experience first-hand the beauty of rural Alabama but a new found understanding and appreciation for Alabama's hidden treasures.

Application Process: Applicants must be first year medical students who have an interest working with rural and/or underserved populations, be available to participate in a one-week residential program, and agree to future follow-ups to measure the impact of the program. There is a \$50 non-refundable application fee. Applications are due by May 30, 2017. Ten students will be selected to participate in the 2017 program. Notifications will be sent by June 15, 2017.



West Alabama Rural Health Initiative Rural Health Immersion Application

PERSONAL STUDENT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

LEGAL NAME:

Last First Middle Preferred Name

Email Address: _____

Permanent Mailing Address: _____
(Include street or PO Box, City, State, Zip)

County: (you live in during school) _____ Phone where we can reach you: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Gender: ___ Male ___ Female Ethnic Background ___ Non-Hispanic ___ Hispanic

Race: Black ___ Native American ___ White ___ Asian ___ (check all that apply)

T-Shirt Size: _____

Check all that apply

Did you grow up in a rural environment?

You are (or will be) the first generation in your family to attend college?

You have or currently do receive Scholarships or Loans for Disadvantaged Student?

While growing up, you or your family used federal or state assistance programs (such as: Free or reduced school lunch, subsidized housing, food stamps, Medicaid etc.)?

While growing up, you lived where there were few medical providers at a convenient distance.

YOUR EDUCATION:

Undergraduate School: _____ Degree: _____

Medical School: _____

PARENT'S EDUCATION:

Did either of your parents attend a 2-year college or 4-year university? ___ Yes ___ No

Mother ___ Yes ___ No If yes, highest degree obtained _____

Father ___ Yes ___ No If yes, highest degree obtained _____

Emergency Contact

Name _____ Relationship to you _____

Phone Number _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

(Additional pages may be used to answer questions)

Why do you want to be participant in the West Alabama Rural Health Initiative Program (WARHI)?

What is your connection to rural Alabama?

Have you considered a career in primary care? If so, why?

Send application to Veronica Triplett, UWA Station 21, Livingston, AL 35470 or by email at vbeasley@uwa.edu. Application is due by Friday, April 28, 2017.