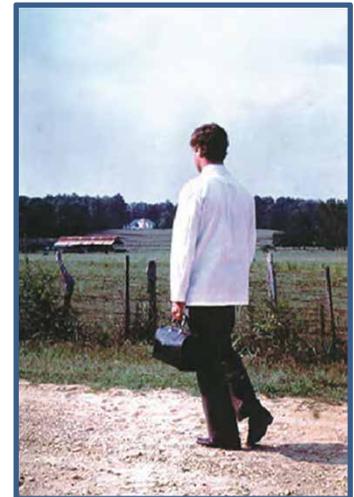




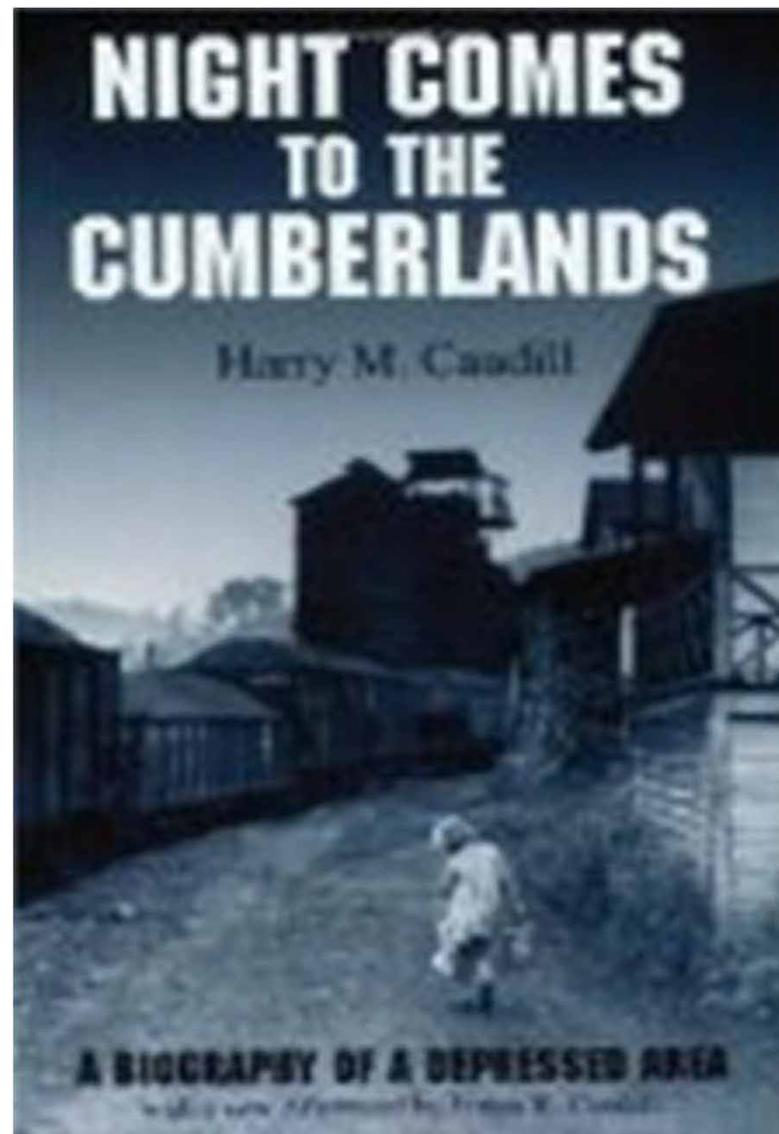
Rural Development with Medical Education

**A report to the ARC Conference:
Healthy Families Healthy Future
Prestonburg, KY
September 7-9, 2011**

John Wheat, MD, MPH, Professor
Community and Rural Medicine
Director, UA Rural Medical Scholars Program
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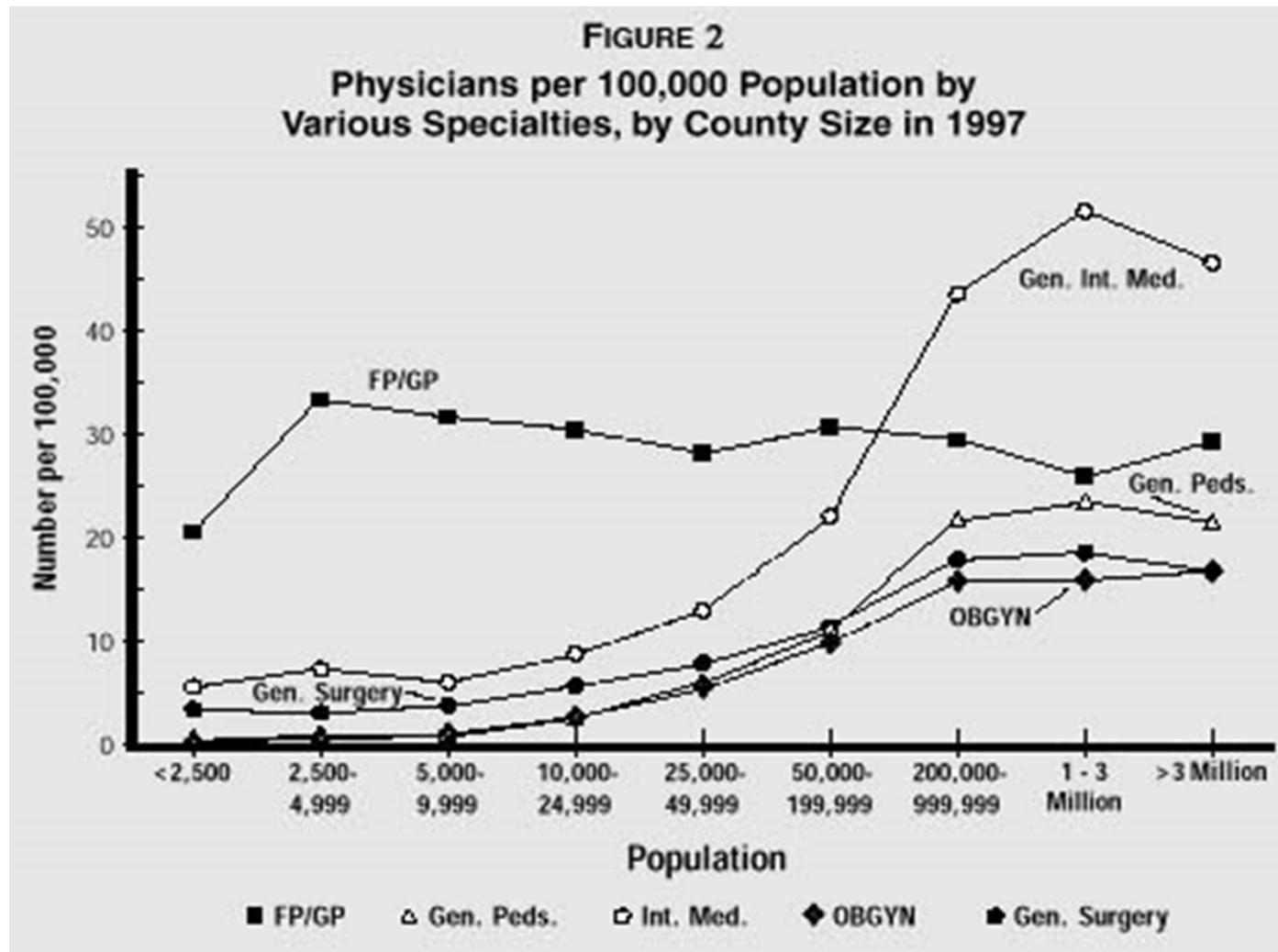
The socioeconomic distress in Appalachia is well documented.



How does this play out in the health care sector at the southern end of Appalachia?

- <http://vimeo.com/15727128>

The answer must include family physicians, 1.



(Colwill JM, Cultice JM. *Health Affairs* 2003;22:190-198)

The answer must include family physicians, 2.

- Family physicians improve population health (whereas specialists do not).
- This health benefit is even greater in minority populations.
- Family physicians decrease cost of care, unlike specialists.

(Starfield B, Shi L. *NC Med J* 2007;68:206-209)

The answer involves home-grown rural students—
to produce family physicians.

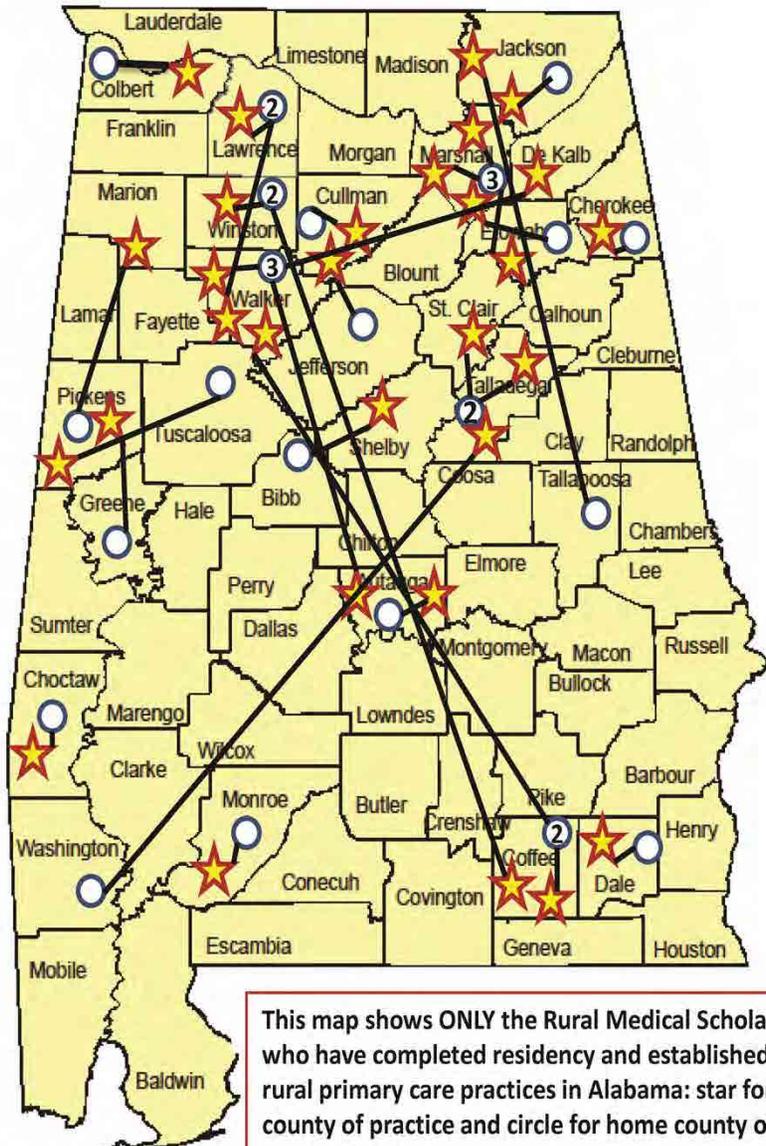
Relative Effect of **RMSP** on FM Choice 1997 - 2005

	<u>Main campus</u>	<u>RMSP</u>
N	840	84
Rural (%)	15.1	43.2
MCAT	30.1	25.7
4-Yr Grad (%)	88.7	90.5
FM choice (%)	3.9	44.0

(Wheat et al. *JABFM* 2011; 24: 93-101)

The answer involves home-grown rural students-- to produce rural physicians.

★ Entered practice in home county: 15. Entered practice in adjacent county: 6.
Entered practice two or more counties away: 9.

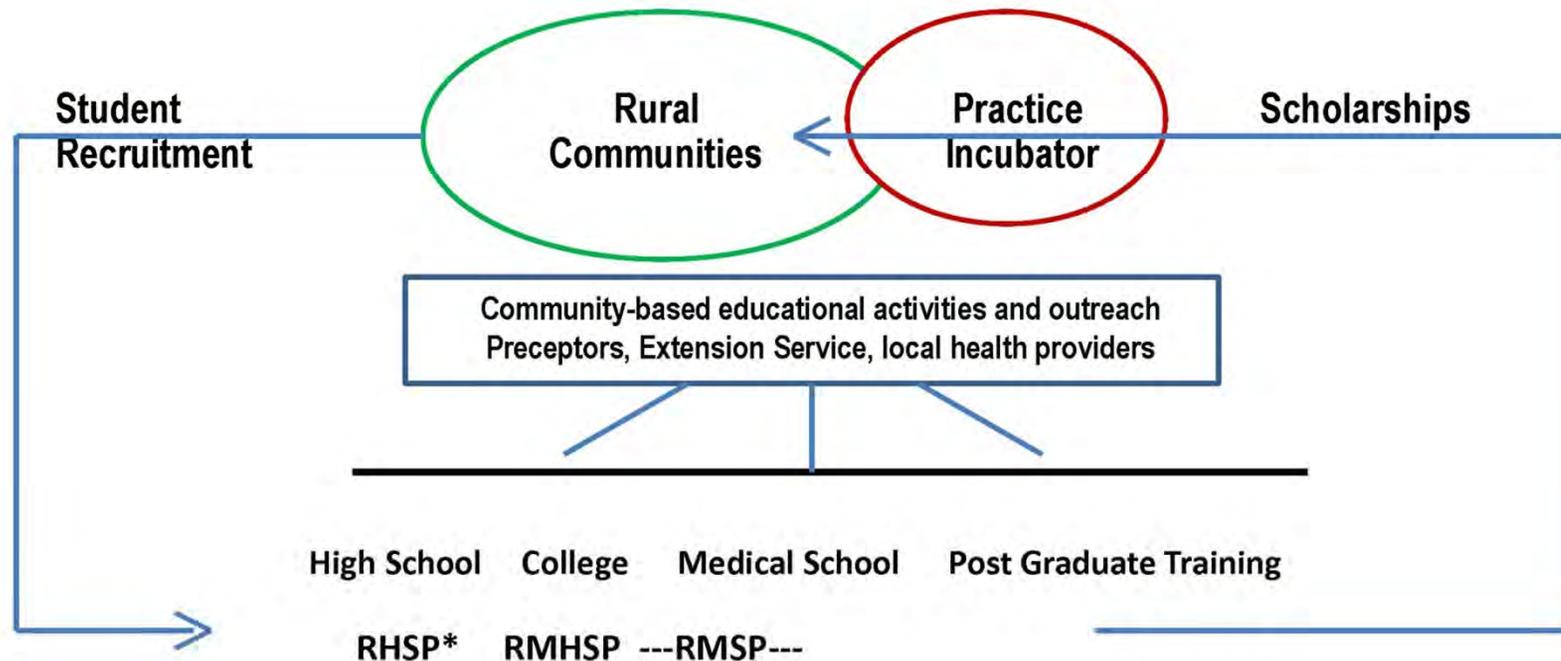


University of Alabama Rural Medical Scholars Program 1996 - 2010

- 154 participants from 52 counties
- 84 have completed medical school.
- 46 have also completed residency.
- 40 practice in Alabama.
- **34 practice in 21 rural Alabama counties.**



Rural Health Leaders Pipeline



*RHSP Rural Health Scholars Program [11th graders]

RMHSP Rural Minority Health Scholars Program [college bound high school graduates]

RMSP Rural Medical Scholars Program [5-yr medical education program open to college grads and senior undergraduates]

-John R. Wheat, MD, MPH, Professor of Community & Rural Medicine
The University of Alabama and the University of Alabama School of Medicine

Outreach to Rural Elementary Students



Black Belt Health Scholars Program (9th and 10th Grade)



Rural Health Scholars Program

471 participants (11th grade) from 66 counties

All entered college.

339 are four years beyond high school.

234 have college degrees.

34 entered medicine.

20 entered other health professions.



Rural Health Scholars 2009
with directors, teachers, and counselors

Rural Minority Health Scholars Program (Post-high school)



Rural Community Health Masters Program (Post-college)



Rural Medical Scholars Program



RMSs in
Tuscaloosa
**Family
Medicine
Residency**
2006-2007

Chief Residents



Jennifer White



Archie Hooper



(RMSs in
Tuscaloosa
**Family
Medicine
Residency
Cont.)**



Chief Residents



Jennifer White

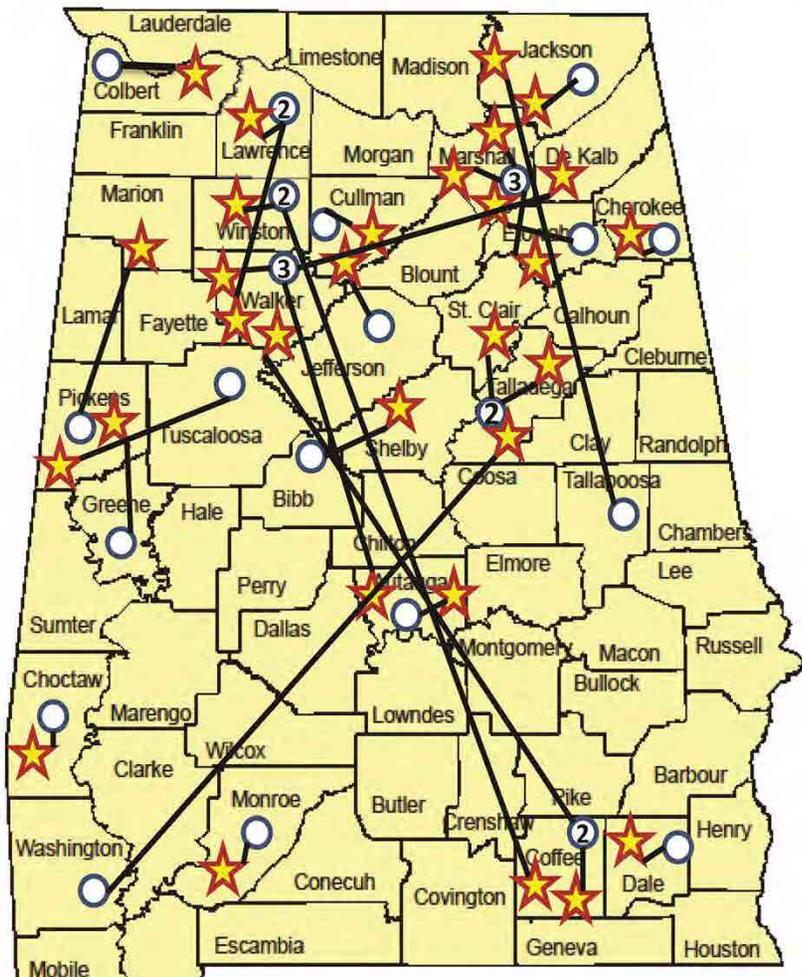


Archie Hooper

MSP has not (yet) corrected the maldistribution of rural physicians.

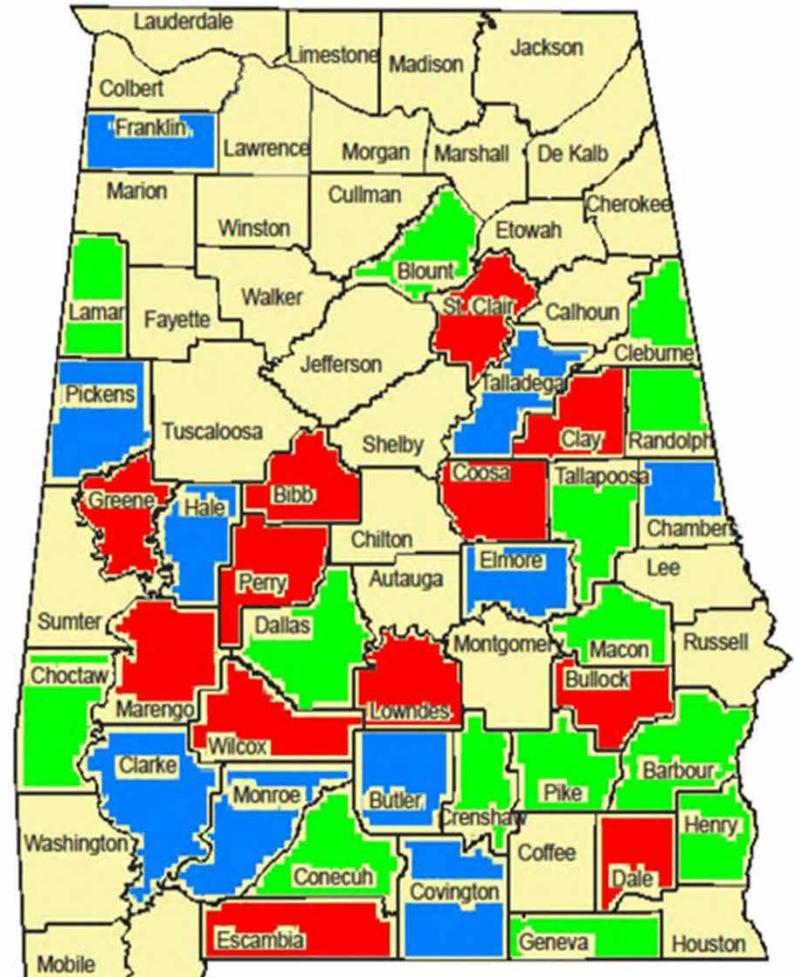
RMSs in rural practice

★ Entered practice in home county: 15. Entered practice in adjacent county: 6.
Entered practice two or more counties away: 9.



This map shows ONLY the Rural Medical Scholars who have completed residency and established rural primary care practices in Alabama: star for county of practice and circle for home county of Rural Medical Scholar.

AL medical students (N=876)



KEY: Medical Students 2009-2010

Red none from this county

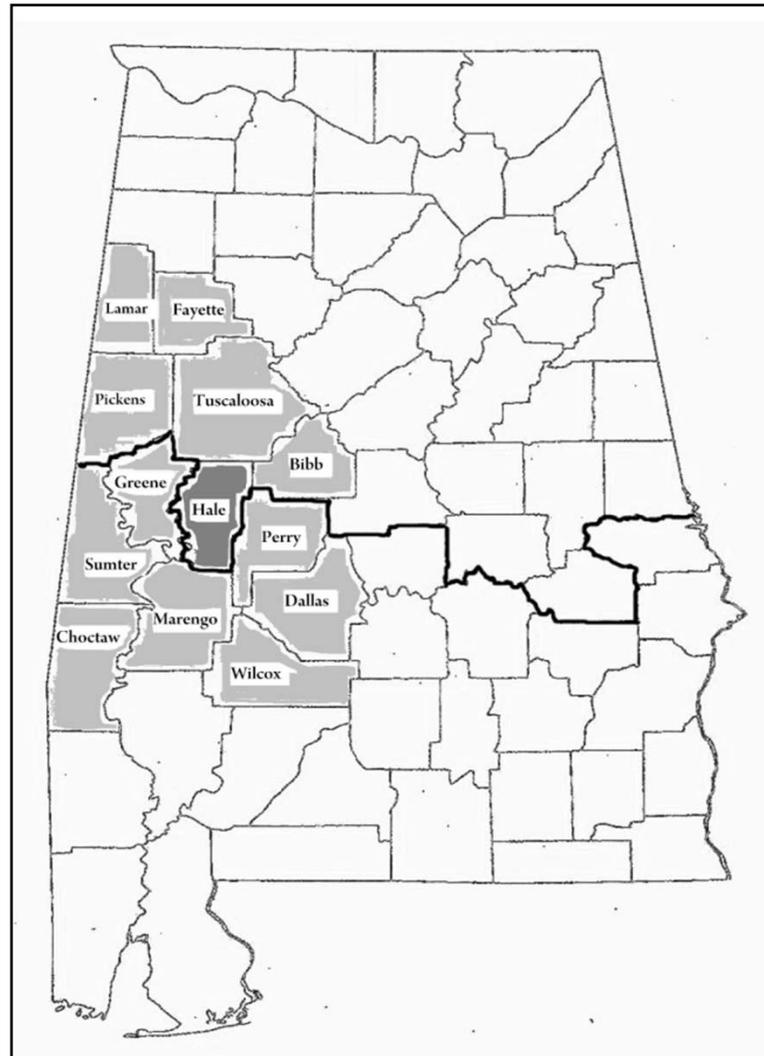
Green 1 from this county

Blue 2 from this county

We must do more:

- **At the local level--** involve more students in pipelines, more health care providers as role models, and more health care agencies/institutions as teaching sites;
- **At sub-state/regional level--** involve more pipeline and health professional education programs;
- **At state and federal level--** engage supportive policies and resources.

Hale County Health Development Partnership (HCHDP): ARC funding partner



Hale County Health Development Partnership (HCHDP): Starting with local school system

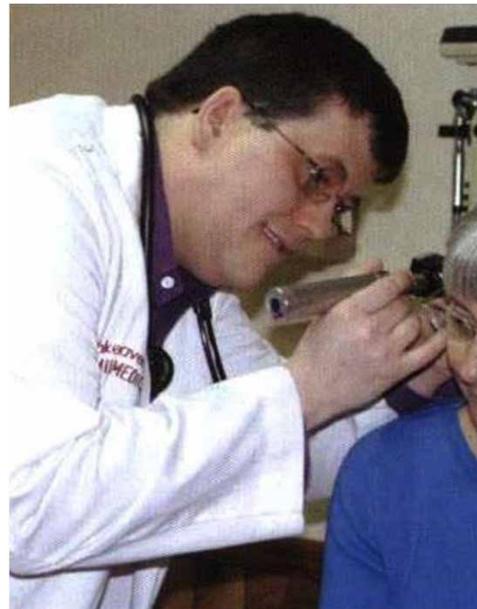


Hale County Health Development Partnership (HCHDP): Engaging the partners



Next Move- Health Professional School Partners

- Employ a progressive preadmission/admission program for students from these underrepresented areas.
- Produce an interdisciplinary track of study that may eventuate in any of several professions, based on students evolving interests and aptitudes.



A partnership involving medical education in rural community and economic development in the ARC region will:

- Improve population health (Starfield).
- Establish a platform of needed rural economic development.
One rural physician generates yearly: 23 jobs; \$889,000 wages, salaries & benefits; \$1,533,000 Total Revenue (Doeksen, 2007)
- Contribute to the social justice that supports community wellbeing.



Don't bet against us



The Rural Scholars Program Directors

Cynthia Moore, Susan Guin, [Governor Riley,] John Wheat, John Brandon, Jim Leeper

