

Creating a Conjoint Rural Medicine Learning Community for Premed and Medical School Matriculates

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WSU Learning Communities

- WSU – Urban University – Detroit
 - Currently 50 LC's on Main Campus
 - Pre-Med LC – 3 years old
 - Rural Medicine Warriors LC – new (Aug, 2010)
- WSU School of Medicine (SOM)
 - Largest single campus school in US (350/class)
 - No LC's in SOM
 - Rural Medicine Interest Group (RMIG)- 5 years
 - Some links to main campus–(MedStart, Post-Bacc)



Rural Medicine Warriors LC

- Background
 - Physician workforce shortage in Michigan
 - Lengthen pipeline recruitment to undergrads
 - Bolster pathway from undergrad to medical to rural practice
 - Create relationships among pre-med and med matriculates
 - Actively recruit those students from rural backgrounds
 - Involve rural physician faculty



Rural Medicine Warrior LC Activities

- Pumpkin Carving/Bonfire in rural community
- LC Peer Mentors – Year 3 med students
 - Small group gatherings (pizza parties)
 - Speaking to MedStart students at requisite seminar
- Team Building – Ropes Course
- Wilderness First Aid
- Presentations to RMIG and LC
 - Loan Repayment Programs
 - Rural Medicine Externship Panel
 - “Day in the Life” of a Rural Physician



Rural Medicine LC

Team Building



Pumpkin Carving



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Assessment Strategies

- Demographic Survey – Baseline Data
- Pre-Post activity surveys – Attitudes
- Activity-Specific Surveys – Identity Building
- Database of all participants – tracking through medical school
- Peer Mentor contact with students
- Student self-identification – “going rural”



Successes and Challenges

- Successes
 - Supportive connection with undergrad pre-med advisor
 - SOM Vice-Dean (rural background) participation in Rural Med events
 - High student satisfaction with events thus far
- Challenges
 - Scheduling of activities – med and pre-med
 - Accessing pre-meds difficult – coordinator unfamiliar with undergrads
 - Student attendance/commitment to events
 - Finding activities with broad appeal



Future Planning

- Reapply for 2011 Rural Medicine Warrior LC
- Build strong cohort of undergrads/pre-meds
- Maintain RMIG at medical school
- Maintain connection with pre-med LC
- Determine best strategy for communication
- Increase rural physician involvement
- Consider Year 1/Year 2 students as peer mentors



Thank You!

- *I welcome your suggestions and any input to assist in making our Rural Medicine Warriors LC a success!*

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