



WMAHEC HAPPENINGS

Western Maryland Area Health Education Center

Promoting quality in healthcare through educational and other partnerships

April 2014

Garrett Allegany Health Workforce Development Network (GAHWDN)

Twenty six (26) family medicine residents from the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMB SOM) will have completed a month long rural community medicine rotation in Garrett and Allegany counties through the Garrett Allegany Health Workforce Development Network (GAHWDN) program by end of May 2014. The curriculum, designed by Network partners for a community medicine rotation, is now in place for family medicine residents from this program who elect to come to Western Maryland for a community medicine rotation.

One resident summarized their appreciation of the level of quality in the rural community medicine rotation, stating, "When you're in the trenches, [rural providers] are taking care of just as many patients as we are here [at an urban, academic health center]...within their means and within the resources they have at the hospital...It's eye-opening, and it's allowed a whole bunch of us to get a glimpse into amazing, amazing rural doctors. That's something you don't get in our first three years here [in the family medicine residency]."

In summer 2013, 11 rising second-year Primary Care Track (PCT) medical students from UMB SOM shadowed preceptors in Western Maryland. One medical student said, "I thought [the doctors] were excellent diagnosticians. They really had to have their eyes open for everything, including all of the rare possibilities." A fellow student stated, "I've always been interested in rural health. Seeing it first-hand definitely gave me the hope that it's something I could do."



Physician Assistant Shannon Trego, pictured right, completed the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Physician Assistant program in 2013. She is pictured with Mountain Laurel Medical Center (MLMC) CEO Beth Little-Terry (left) at the Garrett County Health Fair. Shannon joined MLMC as a physician assistant after her graduation in December 2013. She completed nine of her ten month long clerkship rotations in Western Maryland through the GAHWDN program.

GAHWDN is a Western Maryland AHEC initiated grant funded by the United States Department of Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Rural Health Policy, Rural Health Workforce Development Program. For more information about the program, contact Martha Bird at mbird@wmahec.org.