

## RURAL & UNDERSERVED UTAH TRAINING EXPERIENCE (RUUTE)

### Where is RUUTE TODAY thanks to our current \$250K funding?

**Review:** The mission of the RUUTE program is to increase medical education opportunities in rural and underserved areas of Utah by expanding the interest and awareness of rural health, maintaining and growing quality educational experiences, and developing and enhancing community partnerships with stakeholders.

Number of University of Utah medical students who participated in a rural/underserved rotation in the 2017-2018 academic year	<b>58</b>
Number of potential medical students who expressed interest in completing a rural/underserved rotation to date	<b>86</b>
Number of community faculty physicians in rural/underserved areas of Utah	<b>144</b>
Students who matched into a primary care specialty in Utah 2017-2018	<b>32</b>
Students who matched into a Utah residency program in 2017-2018	<b>43</b>

**Graduate Pathway:** Beginning as soon as Spring of 2019, medical students will have the opportunity to enroll in a curriculum related to rural health. Completion of the RUUTE Pathway will be acknowledged in the student's academic record and transcript as a Graduate Certificate in Rural Medicine. Courses may include:

- Introduction to Population Health in the Rural Western U.S
- Rural Health Care: Systems, Delivery & Resources

**Creation of Rural Medical Student Interest Group:** The Rural Utah Medical Interest Group (RUMIG) was created to increase rural/underserved health awareness to medical students on campus. RUMIG will consist of a Speaker Series, a program that will invite rural physicians in Utah to travel to the University of Utah campus to educate, inform, and inspire young doctors to practice in rural areas.

**Established Housing in Multiple Rural and Underserved Areas:** This will improve access as students live in local communities close to hospitals and clinics during their rotations.

**Student Experience:** *"I was able to spend 2 weeks in St. George working with a General Surgeon. My experience in rural/underserved medicine changed the outlook for my professional future. I better understood the huge variety of patient issues that rural/underserved providers face, the barriers to providing quality care in rural/underserved areas, and the excitement that comes with preparing for whatever comes in the door. After experiencing rural/underserved medicine as a medical student, I now view a rural/underserved community as a likely destination for my future career"*

- Jacob Mitchell, Class of 2019



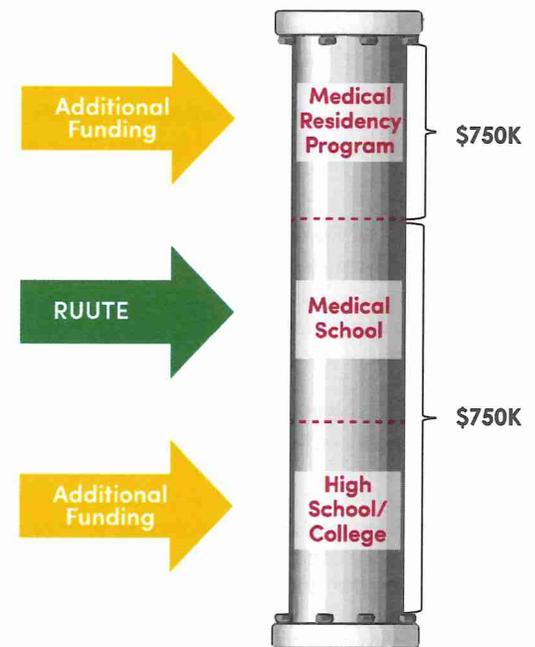
# 100 Medical Students for 100 Medical Residents for 100 Rotations throughout Utah

## WHERE can RUUTE go TOMORROW with ADDITIONAL FUNDING?

- 1) DEDICATED POSITIONS at UUSOM for RUUTE:** For the incoming 2020 matriculating academic year, **10 students** will on board to the RUUTE program during the medical school admissions process. These students will come from a rural area and express an enthusiasm for rural medicine. Stakeholders from rural communities will participate in helping identifying and selecting these 10 students. This does not increase the class size, but sets aside 10 seats within the 125 for RUUTE.



- 2) ENHANCING PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT with RUUTE Partnerships:** In order to help rural and underserved students of all ages to be prepared for medical school (and the health sciences), a focus of RUUTE will be to provide experiences to students from elementary school through high school to help students from rural and underserved areas prepare for college and eventually medical school. Activities will include: health modules including practice anatomy dissections, student interest groups, promoting physician shadowing experiences, etc.
- 3) CREATION OF RUUTE Summer Immersion Experience:** During the summer of a medical student's first and second year of school, a Rural Summer Immersion Experience trip will be developed to increase a student's understanding of rural health. The trip will consist of repeated immersion in a supportive host community with a primary care physician where they explore the social and cultural aspects of rural life, learn essential clinical skills and complete a capstone rural health project. Experiences include a local ranch, farm, and industry tours, clinical observations, and immersion in community outreach activities.
- 4) Establish additional Rural RESEARCH Opportunities:** Aligning with the University of Utah mission statement, research capstone course for rural pathway students will be developed. Small grants may be awarded to premedical and medical students who complete rural research projects through a Rural Research Symposium.
- 5) HELP build Rural Training Tracks for Graduate Medical Education (GME):** The AAMC has shown that up to 70% of physician retention rate occurs when both a medical school and GME programs are in the same state versus medical school or GME alone (less than 50%). Our faculty in primary care and critically needed specialties all support resident and medical student experiences in rural/underserved areas of Utah. Funding support would allow a **100 for 100 for 100 model**, 100 residents with 100 medical students totaling 100 rotations, thus providing a total of 100 months of rural medical education and training across the state of Utah. These physicians and medical students will be able to provide support and assistance to practicing physicians in these communities, benefitting both our students and the physicians with whom they work.
- 6) Facilitate Inter-professional Education Coordination:** RUUTE can be the gateway for other health science programs such as dental, physician assisting, nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy programs etc. to develop and enhance their rural curriculum and growth.



**Total COST: \$1,500,000 ongoing**