



National Rural Health Association

Rural Medical Education Conference

May 20, 2025 – Atlanta, GA

Atlanta Marriott Marquis

“Being a Voice for Rural”

1-1:15 p.m.

Introductions/Session Objectives

Alan Morgan, NRHA, CEO

1:15-2:30 p.m.

Keynote Presentation - Advocacy: Being a Voice for Rural

Alexa McKinley Abel, J.D., NRHA, Director of Government Affairs & Policy

2:30-2:45 a.m.

Break

2:45- 4:00 p.m.

Showcase of Best-practices

The Montana WWAMI TRUST (Targeted Rural/Underserved Track) Program-Leadership and Advocacy

Jay Erikson, MD, U of Washington School of Medicine, Assistant Clinical Dean MT WWAMI

The Montana WWAMI TRUST program which started in 2008 and now accepts 12 students yearly into this 4-year rural/underserve medical education pathway. This presentation will briefly explore the Montana TRUST program and its outcomes and how the advocacy curriculum is accomplished for these TRUST scholars.

Rural Medical Education Curriculum Turns Advocacy Projects to Lasting Action

Julia Terhune, MA, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Communication Manager for Rural, Mission Pathway, and Academic Affairs

In 2013, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine’s Rural Community Health Program (R-CHP) integrated a capstone community advocacy project into the curriculum. The project was designed to equip students with experience in identifying and collaboratively solving healthcare and social issues in rural Michigan during their clinical rotations.

Advocacy Integration in a Prematriculation Curriculum

James Leeper, PhD, University of Alabama Rural Programs, Professor Emeritus

Integration of an advocacy into a prematriculation masters curriculum has been a priority of the Rural Medical Scholars Program for many years. Formal education in the form of a Health Policy and Planning class at The University of Alabama has been included for the past 16 years.

4:00-4:45 p.m.

Student Presentation

Chelsea Koessel, MT WWAMI program, 3rd year rural TRUST scholar

4:45-5:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Thank you for your attendance and your continued support of NRHA and the RME Conference!
Join us next year in San Diego on May 19, 2026!