October 10, 2016

We are writing to invite you to participate in the University of Missouri School of Medicine Summer Community Program by sponsoring a medical student(s) at your facility during the summer of 2017. Students are looking forward to experiencing rural medicine next summer!

The University of Missouri School of Medicine Rural Track Pipeline Program was created by Dean Lester Bryant in 1995 to improve the supply and distribution of physicians in rural Missouri. The program consists of four distinct but related curriculum and clinical components providing students with ongoing exposure to rural medicine. Over the past 20 years, the MU Rural Track Pipeline Program has successfully produced rural physicians for the state of Missouri with approximately 55 percent of participants practicing in a rural location.

The Summer Community Program is one of the four programs that constitute the MU Rural Track Pipeline Program. Through the sponsorship of local hospitals and physicians, rising second year medical students participating in the program live and work in a rural community for 4-8 weeks. During this time, students gain clinical experience and acquaint themselves with rural life and rural medicine. Since academic year 1994-1995, 377 students have completed the Summer Community Program. After completing the Summer Community Program, 72 percent of participants reported more interest in rural practice and 46 percent of past participants have chosen rural locations for their first practice. These outcomes reinforce that the Summer Community Program influences students to consider rural medicine and provides an excellent opportunity for participating facilities to showcase what rural medicine has to offer—an excellent opportunity to attract and recruit future physicians for eventual rural practice.

If you agree to participate, we will need the following from your facility:

1) A board certified physician(s) to serve as a mentor(s) and teacher(s) for a 4-8-week student experience. The physician will be asked to complete an online evaluation of the student’s performance at the end of the experience. (A maximum of two physicians per four week period is preferred)

2) Provide a stipend payment to the student(s), depending upon the length of the program—$1,030.93 for a 4-week experience, $1,546.39 for a 6-week experience, and $2,061.86 for an 8-week experience (please see the attached confirmation form for more details).

3) If possible, provide housing for the student(s) unless he/she decides to stay with a family member in the community. (Please see the attached confirmation sheet for acceptable housing options for students).

4) If possible, allow the student(s) to eat free of charge or at a reduced rate in the hospital cafeteria.

Students will be covered under the University of Missouri’s malpractice insurance policy.
Student applications (which includes a list of participating sites) for the Summer Community Program are due in January. To ensure your facility is included, please return your signed and completed participation confirmation form in the attached envelope, via fax at 573-884-2349, or via email to schusterjm@health.missouri.edu by **December 16, 2015**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Allison Fuemmeler at 573-884-3566, fuemmeleran@health.missouri.edu or Jana Porter at 573-881-1716, porterjl@health.missouri.edu.

For more information about the Summer Community Program, or for electronic copies of all forms, please visit medicine.missouri.edu/ahec/summer.

Sincerely,

Sheila Marushak
Program Director, MU-AHEC

Jim Stevermer, MD, MPSH
Medical Director, Rural Health Programs

Enclosures