



## Second-Year Students Come to Wyoming



WWAMI students show their support of Medicaid expansion.

# WWAMI II

BY GAYLE M. IRWIN

**B**eginning with the 2019–2020 school year, WWAMI students will stay in Wyoming for their first two years of medical school. Both 1st and 2nd year students learn directly from providers and observe medical practices in the Cowboy State.

These students learn directly from practicing physicians in Laramie and Cheyenne visiting physicians from around the state, and scientists who are on the University of Wyoming faculty, said WWAMI Director Timothy Robinson, PhD.

“Both PhDs and MDs teach,” he said. “The students are learning science and seeing how it’s applicable to the field of medi-

cine. Laramie and Cheyenne contribute the most physicians, but they also come from Casper and other parts of the state.”

The physicians come from a variety of practices, including family medicine, emergency, internal medicine, neurology, nephrology, cardiology and a host of other specialties as well as scientists that have backgrounds in disciplines applicable to the medical field.

“It’s a team effort,” Robinson said.

### Projects for community

The students work on projects involving research and leader-



WWAMI students Caleb Brackett, left, Jessie Hinshaw and Alexis Anderson volunteer during the Big Event student service day at the University of Wyoming.

ship, some of which were presented at the Western Student and Resident Medical Research Forum in January. The forum is the largest faculty-mentored student and resident research gathering in the U.S. Two of the presentations by Wyoming WWAMI students were voted as the top projects given at the conference.

Additionally, a second-year student, Alexis Anderson, started Wyoming Women in Medicine, a networking opportunity to empower female providers and those who may be interested in a future medical career.

“It’s a very important program. Wyoming has the third-lowest proportion of female physicians in the nation. This group of women is dedicated to fostering more female physicians in the state,” Robinson said.

WWAMI students also met with legislators to discuss Medicaid expansion and the importance of such to underserved communities.

“These students are engaged and are very concerned [about the health of Wyoming residents],” Robinson said.

Another program involving research and leadership is known as Stop the Bleed, a national program organized in response to mass shootings in the United States. One of WWAMI’s students, Ryan Winchell, had been exposed to the program before becoming a medical student. He decided to try to tag the idea onto something Wyoming is known for: backcountry and other outdoor activities. Winchell worked out a partnership with Iverson Memorial Hospital in Laramie to provide training.

Second-year student Daulton Grube also worked on the Stop the Bleed training. He taught a class on using tourniquets in

specific situations, such as car crashes and hunting accidents.

“It was an incredible opportunity,” Grube said. “Several kids in our class taught these trainings. We were able to bring our knowledge and experience and prepare people if they ever had to use that knowledge.”

### Staying In Wyoming

Originally from Rock Springs, Daulton Grube finished his classes last December and took his board exams in Denver in March. Clinical rotations are the next step, which include a military family practice clinic in Tacoma, Washington; an OBGYN in Wenatchee, Washington; and a stint in internal medicine at Sheridan Memorial Hospital. Each rotation lasts six weeks.

“It will be fast and furious, but I’m excited,” he said.

As a high school student, Grube was a member of the Health Academy in Rock Springs.

“Those experiences helped guide my interest in medicine going into college,” he said. “I was mostly interested in pediatrics before medical school, but over the last two years I have also gained an interest in emergency medicine.”

He looks forward to having rotations in those areas while in Seattle, and he is considering opening a pediatric practice or working in emergency medicine after returning to Wyoming.



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### Renowned faculty

Another benefit of having second-year students study in Laramie is the caliber of faculty that the university can now recruit.

A cardiologist whose work is known nationally, Dr. Nellie Bruns, now instructs for WWAMI, he said.

"We're able to recruit top faculty," Robinson said. "We're able to recruit top-notch medical and scientific professionals, and when that happens, your research profile goes up. That helps both the university and our students."


Because of the experience of the faculty and the opportunities to work with and be mentored by practicing physicians, WWAMI students receive a strong foundational, well-rounded education. That may be a contributing factor to the fact that nearly 70 percent of Wyoming WWAMI students come back to the state

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DAULTON GRUBE

Grube agreed.

"WWAMI is an incredible program. We get tremendous support from the faculty and state leaders," he said. "All have really been beneficial."

"The future of medicine in the state is very bright, in the next five to 10 years, there will be 19 other practicing physicians in Wyoming from my class that will be incredible doctors." 

to practice medicine, he said.

"We want physicians to be invested in the state and our communities," said Robinson. "We are grateful to the Wyoming Medical Society, the legislature and governor, and to the university's administration. They have been unbelievable supporting this second-year program. These leaders have great vision for WWAMI and providing high quality medicine to the state."



WWAMI second year students receive their white coats during a transition ceremony in December. Symbolizing compassion and honor, the white coats are worn by students during the clinical phase of their medical training. Shown on either side of the students are, from left, Vice Dean for Academic, Rural and Regional Affairs Suzanne Allen, MD, MPH; guest speaker and E-97 WWAMI participant Valerie Lengfelder, MD; WWAMI Director Tim Robinson, PhD; and Assistant Clinical Dean Larry Kirven, MD. Students are, from left, Sean McCue, Ryan Winchell, Logan Taylor, Jacob Zumo, Jesse Hinshaw, Caleb Brackett, Aleksandra Zarzycka, Conner Morton, Amanda Golden, Alexis Anderson, Rida Fatima, Adam Blaine, Allana Hall, Elliott Trott, Renae Wollman, Marcus Couldridge, Daulton Grube, Reed Ritterbusch, Reno Maldonado, and Trey Thompson.

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