



2024

Annual Report

**Western Montana Area
Health Education Center**

2024 Advancing Health: Mentoring Program



13 Mentees (students)

Pharmacy, Social Work, High School, Health Communications, Nursing, Pre-Med.



9 Mentors (professionals)

Nurse, Hospital Administrator, Public Health, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Social Work.



4 Educational Sessions

Sessions explored topics that guided breakout sessions for reflective conversation and mentoring.



1 Networking Session

Cohort members came together to discuss networking and spend time with one another meeting their mentors/mentees since the program was virtual throughout the semester.



Career Awareness REACH Camps

High School	Site Location	Number of Camps	# of Students
Corvallis High School	Bitterroot Health-MDH	1	25
Florence-Carlton High School	Bitterroot Health-MDH	1	39
Hellgate High School	Missoula College	1	19
Sentinel High School	Missoula College	1	15



Career Awareness MedStart Camp

Missoula

30 students accepted
23 students attended
15 high schools represented





MEDSTART 2024



Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training

(BHWET) Graduate Level Cohorts 7 & 8

Cohort 7
17 Students
\$243,408 Stipend Support

2 Nursing, 7 Counseling,
2 Psychology, 6 Social Work

Cohort 7 Background

[Cohort 8: Data pending]

41% of students self-identified as from a rural background and from a disadvantaged background.

Cohort 8
21 Students
\$325,056 Stipend Support

6 Counseling, 8 Social Work,
4 Psychology, 3 Nursing



Friday Medical Conference



**Total
Attendees**

1,780

**Average
Recorded
Attendance**

28

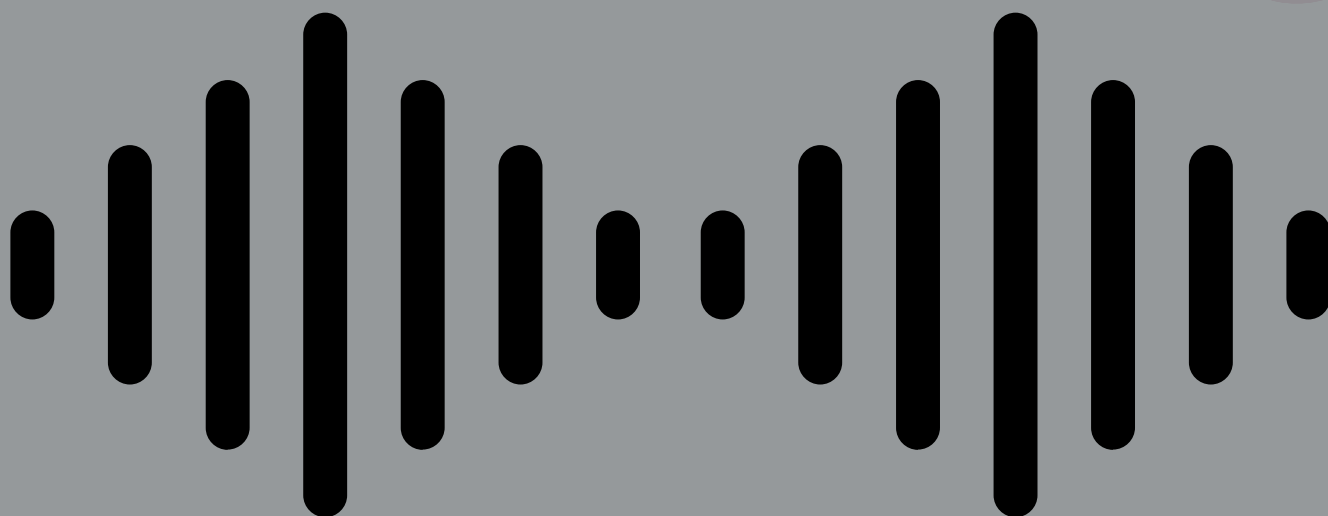
**Average Live
Attendance**

33

All Things Vagus

Podcast

10 New Episodes



Top 3 Episodes

Soul Retrieval:
A Path for
Finding
Wholeness

Open to
Grace

The Alexander
Technique

Rural Rotation

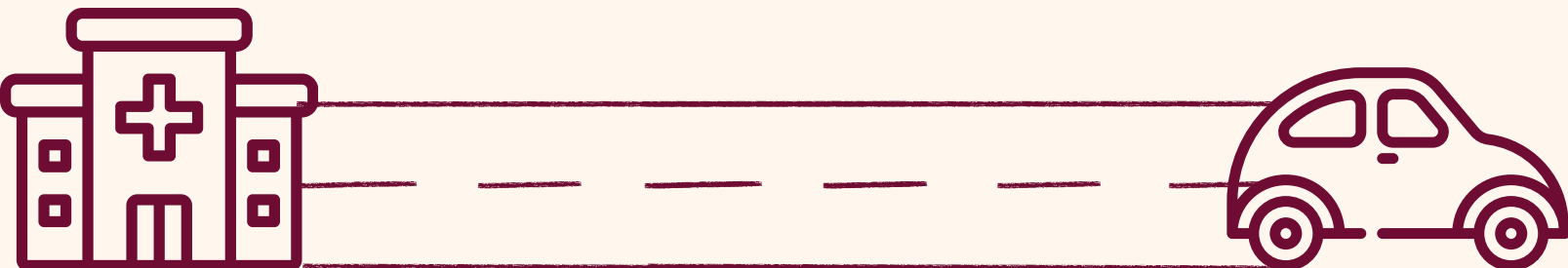
14 students supported from UM
Pharmacy & MSU Nursing

\$4,012 disbursed
13,337 miles traveled
10 clinical sites



“My favorite aspect of the site was how closely pharmacists worked with all the healthcare professionals. Every morning, I would attend patient rounds with the hospitalist, head nurse, pharmacist, and any other medical students. This gave me the opportunity to work closely with not only the staff but the patients themselves.” – **McKenzie Schneider (Community Hospital of Anaconda)**

“The experience deepened my understanding of the complexities of child and adolescent mental health and the importance of empathy and patience in treatment. I was particularly moved by the resilience of the patients and their progress throughout their treatment.” – **Hadley Kraft (Shodair Children's Mental Hospital)**



Indigenous-led Public Health Summit

A one-day gathering of **90+ attendees** representing Tribal Nations, hospitals, social services, public health departments, and academia. Rooted in culture and community, **Indigenous voices**, programs, and health initiatives were **highlighted and celebrated**.



AHMS 129: Introduction to Health Professions

***an online class** taught by our staff member Liz Kelsey*

Fall 2024 Enrollment: 24 students

Spring 2025 Enrollment: 13 students

- Study Skills
- Career Prep
- Scholarships
- Overview of healthcare system & Professions
- Surgery Tech
- Resp Therapy
- Radiology
- PT/PTA
- OT/OTA
- Speech Language Pathology
- Paramedicine
- Pharmacy
- Public/Community Health
- Social Work
- Clinical Psych
- Licensed Professional Counseling
- School Counseling
- AT
- Exercise Science
- Research
- Behavioral Health Tech
- Dental Assisting/Hygiene
- Nursing (CNA, ASN, BSN)
- Medical assisting
- Medical Lab Sciences

Nagasaki University Students

In early 2024, WWAMI Missoula hosted four medical students from Nagasaki University as part of their ongoing global health partnership.

- Jan–Mar: **Two third-year students** participated in research placements at the University of Montana labs and visited Rocky Mountain Laboratories with Dr. Marshall Bloom.
- May: **Two fifth-year students** completed a four-week clinical shadowing rotation at Providence Lifespan Family Medicine, St. Patrick Hospital (Emergency and Inpatient), and Partnership Health Center.

These experiences enriched cross-cultural learning and strengthened collaborative ties in medical education.



Clerkships, Rotations, & Electives

New Clerkships, Rotations, & Electives

- Ortho at Missoula Bone and Joint
- Emergency Medicine at Community Medical Center
- Infectious Disease at St. Patrick Hospital
- Geriatrics/Palliative Care at St. Patrick Hospital



New Faculty

- Sarah Koch, MD (Neurology)

Ortho Docs in Missoula at Bone and Joint

- Dr. Michael Wright
- Dr. Jeffrey LaPorte
- Dr. Mark Channer
- Dr. Zach Meyer

Students in 101 Rotations

- March 2024–December 2024–45 students did 55 clerkships/electives/rotations
- 2 UW Internal Medicine Residents complete 4 week ICU rotation at St. Patrick Hospital

Rotation Sites

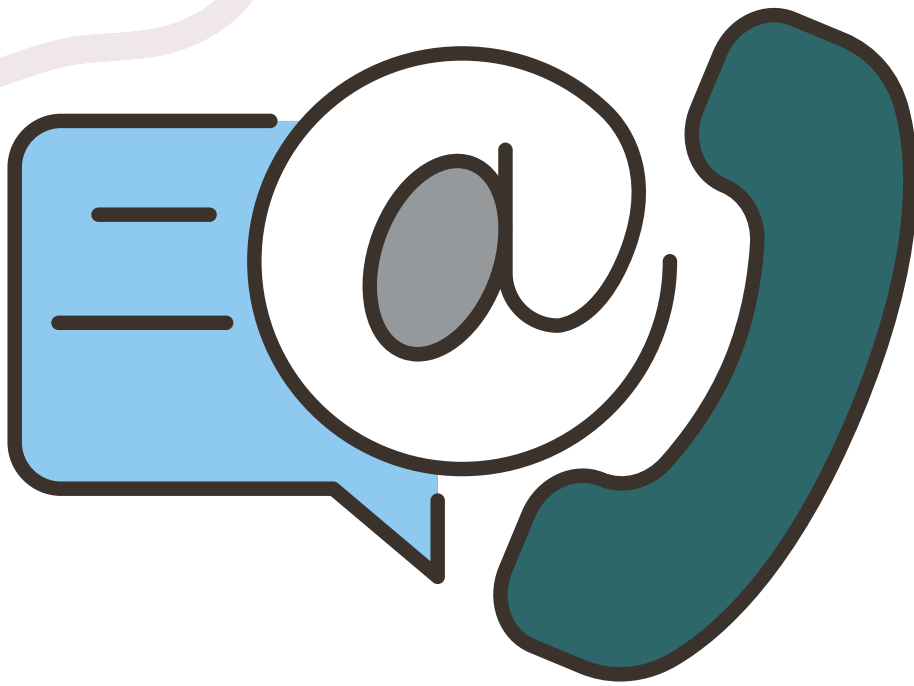
- St. Patrick Hospital
- Community Medical Center
- Partnership Health Center
- Western Montana Clinic
- Curry Health Center
- Seeley Swan Medical Center
- Rocky Mountain Eye and Rocky Mountain ENT
- Billings Clinic
- Missoula Anesthesiology
- Missoula Valley Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Missoula Bone and Joint

WWAMI Missoula



Faculty Development: Two sessions were held in 2024—one in March at the DoubleTree with Drs. Somnath Mookherjee and Laura Goodell (UWSOM CLIME), and another in December at the Missoula Marriott, where we honored Dr. John Schaeffer (Neurology) for his dedicated teaching since 2008.

Community Engagement: Medical students visited a 5th-grade classroom at Franklin Elementary to spark interest in health careers. While continued engagement was delayed, we aim to resume monthly visits in the 2025–26 school year.



Contact Us



wmtahec@umt.edu