

Early Decision Rural Dentistry Track Program (EDRDTP)



The Effects of Rurality on College Access and Choice

Summary: Students in non-metropolitan counties are less likely to go to college and, if they, are less likely to choose four-year, private or selective institution.

Findings:

- * Students in rural counties are only 85% as likely as their metropolitan peers to enroll in higher education
- * Students in rural counties who do go to college are much more likely to choose two-year institutions
- * While all students in lower-income bracket are less likely to go to college and less likely to choose selective institutions, that disparity is smaller among rural students than their metropolitan peers

College Access and Choice for Rural Students

- * Only 21.3% of rural youth apply to college (compared to 76% from upper SES groups)
- * Rural students often do not have the human, social, and cultural capital to focus on education from an early age and prepare them for changes associated with higher education
- * College attendance rates is lower among rural youth
- * To have institutional choice, rural students need to relocate but can be restricted by cultural and economic reasons

EDRDTP Background

- * Funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through the MN Department of Health
- * First awarded in 2011; second award in 2013
- * Provides tuition scholarships
- * Competitive; students apply
- * DDS Student Admissions Committee interview and select applicants

EDRDTP Scholars

- * Must be residents of a rural community
- * Have a rural dentist as mentor
- * Obtain support from a community organization
- * Attend the Summer Dental School Experience
- * Maintain a minimum of 3.4 GPA
- * Complete a community summer project with mentor annually during the program (2-3 years)

EDRDTP Scholars* and Mentors

Students	School	Rural Community	Mentor
Matthew Hanowski	St. John's U	Little Falls, MN	Dr. Gregory Hubbard
Jamie St. Marie	U of ND	Zumbrota, MN	Dr. Andrew Chistensen
Taylor Mikkalson	U of MN	Mantorville, MN	Dr. Scott Winkle
Jake Wagner	St. John's U	Blue Earth, MN	Dr. Roger Grandgenett
Gretchen Keltscher	St. Scholastica	Brainerd, MN	Dr. Daniel Rose
Samuel Duberowski	Northwestern	Motley, MN	Dr. Daniel Rose

* Two scholars are currently in the first year DDS class

EDRDTP Scholars and their Stories

- * <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/chp/oralhealth/newsletter.html>