



Rural Dentistry

Need, Challenges, and Options

The 1970s - Why and What worked?

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**Looking simply at the workforce
and educational programs,
what the School of Dentistry can do?**





The 1970s...

Dejà vu all over again

What worked, and why

Historical context

1968-1984

If the professional workforce is to respond effectively to marketplace demands and socially desirable needs, then the free-flow of information is essential.

Career decisions are better made when the dentist understands his or her values, and when personal, family, and professional needs and goals have been thoughtfully considered and employed in the decision process.

Historical context

1968-1984

Component	Function
Manpower Analysis and Reporting Service	Provided data foundation for research and analysis of supply, needs, and demands
Practice Location Search Service	Advice and assistance to communities recruiting dentists; provided access to comprehensive community profiles for students to evaluate
Dental Personnel Placement Service	A “dating service” which allowed dentists and other employers to identify candidates, and vice-versa
Curriculum	Orientation to rural life and rural dentistry; career planning guidance, couples’ value exploration
Rural externships	12-15 week experience with a rural dentist, observation and minor duties; MN, MT, and ND

What we learned...

#1 There's no substitute for the flow of good information!

Placement and career guidance programs developed in the early 1970s drastically reduced dental workforce shortage areas

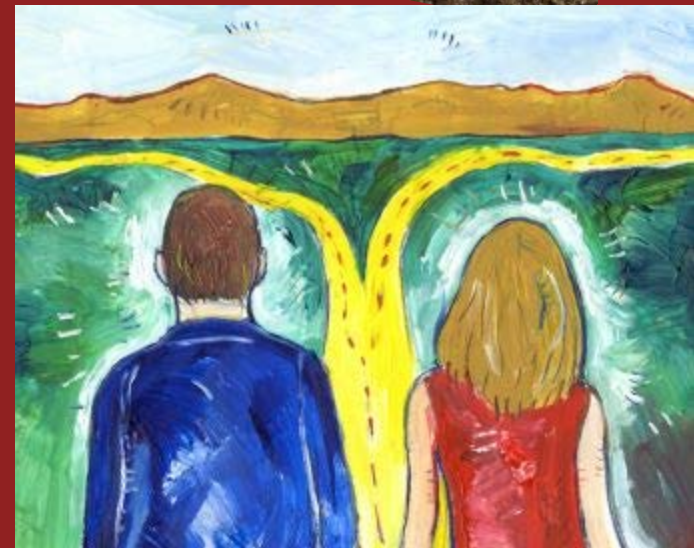
Longer extramural experiences are more likely to impact career decisions.

Loan forgiveness and related programs can be an incentive; sometimes, but not always, they are “deal-makers.”

Connecting with dentists in practice and communities across the state served everyone, including graduates and the School of Dentistry

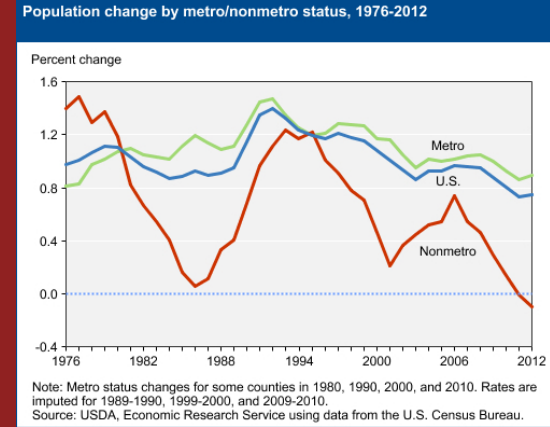
30-60% of students recruited from rural areas will return; but location decisions are multi-factorial.

...and what we're up against.



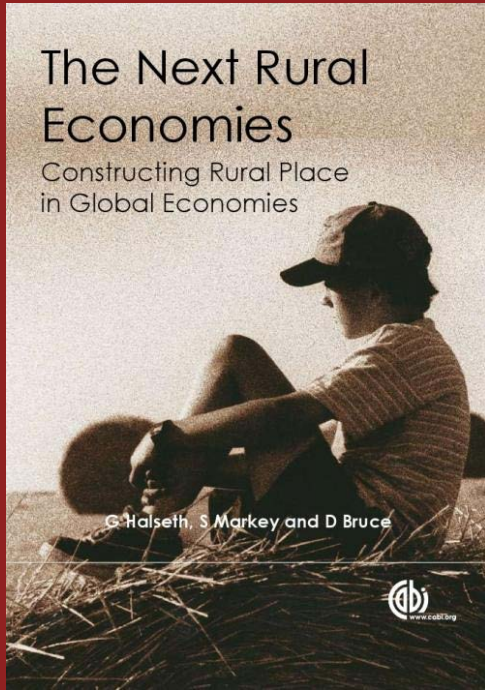
Reality Check

Trade area dynamics



Out-migration

Consolidation and integration of health care



Evolving economics



Thank you