**Medical Education and Research Grant Outcome Report**

**Name:** Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM)  
**Principal Investigator:** Byron Crouse, MD, Professor and Associate Dean for Rural and Community Health  
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**Department:** Family Medicine  
**Program:** Targeted Program  
**Grant Duration:** 01-01-06 to 6-30-08 (30 months)  
**Expenditures:** $133,462 of $178,014 (75% expended)  
**Use of Funds (Taxonomy):** Education  
**Research Keywords:** Rural Wisconsin, rural medical education

**Description:** WARM is intended to improve access to health care in rural areas and to advance the health of the people of rural Wisconsin by increasing the number of UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) graduates who practice in rural Wisconsin communities. The aim is to admit 25 new medical students per year by targeting students most likely to develop rural medical practices in a variety of specialty areas.

**Results:** The second class of (13) WARM students began in fall 2008; the first WARM students are expected to graduate from UW SMPH in 2011. The Rural Health Interest Group has already become an active student organization, and other school-wide events and speakers have focused on rural health. Due in part to these events, the number of UW SMPH graduates who selected a rural or rural-focused residency increased in 2008. In 2007, 8.1% of UW SMPH students indicated that they plan to practice medicine in a rural/unincorporated area, up from just 0.9% in 2005. Education about the program, and identification of prospective students, occurs through: presentations to premed clubs at colleges and universities throughout the state, through outreach to high school students, and at an annual WARM symposium.

The WARM program has engaged rural communities, hospitals, clinics, and physicians in training future rural physicians.

It is expected that by the year 2018, approximately 50 WARM alumni could be practicing medicine in various specialties throughout rural Wisconsin. The increase in rural physicians can help to address the challenges and barriers that rural residents face in accessing health care and developing and maintaining healthy lifestyles.

**Met Objectives:** Project completed  
**Timeline for Application of Results:** 5-7 years  
**New Partnerships or Collaborations:**  
- Marshfield Clinic, Gundersen Lutheran, Aurora BayCare, and their respective rural clinics—to provide rural learning environments for WARM students in their third and fourth years of medical school  
- Other UW-Madison schools and departments—to provide content experts for rural electives  
- Other professional programs (e.g., Physical Therapy, Physicians Assistant) regarding opportunities for partnerships

**Contributions to the Transformation:** Addressing population health and community health in rural areas, and integrating public health instruction in all four years of the curriculum.

**Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** $0

**Dissemination:**  
- WARM cited in: Academic Medicine; The National AHEC Bulletin (Winter 07)  
- Numerous news/media items

**Additional Funding:** WARM is able to capture 75% of WARM student tuition dollars to sustain the program, and dollars follow the students to their regional and rural learning communities.