The Wisconsin Partnership Program’s mission is to bring about lasting improvements in health and well-being and advance health equity through investments in community partnerships, education and research. To date, our funding has supported work in EVERY county of our state. Below are a few highlights of what our partners are saying throughout the state.

“Without the Wisconsin Partnership Program funding, it would not be possible to expand programming intended to screen for and address needs related to the social determinants of health, incorporate the voices of the directly affected, and demonstrate the impact of this work on clinical outcomes, healthcare use patterns, and the satisfaction of patients, providers, community organizations, and campus and community volunteers. Wisconsin Partnership Program’s focus on authentic engagement of the directly affected in solutions to promote health equity ensures that the programs it funds are truly community-driven and promotes effective, sustainable, long-term change. Opportunities for ongoing learning, collaboration, and technical assistance offered by the Wisconsin Partnership Program are unmatched by any other funder and ensure that grantees can work across traditional boundaries between geographies, municipalities, and sectors to have the greatest possible impact in Wisconsin communities.”

– Jay Shrader, Vice President Community Health and Wellness, Marshfield Clinic

“Because of severe economic and social pressures combined with the absence of providers, our rural farming communities in southwestern Wisconsin are experiencing an epidemic of opioid abuse disorders. The resources made available to us by the Partnership Program are all that we have to help us provide services to support persons with addictions to recover and live normal lives.”

– Walter Orzechowski, Executive Director Southwest Community Action Program

“In 2013, the African American Breastfeeding Network (AABN) received a grant from the Wisconsin Partnership Program as part of its Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families to help reduce infant mortality. Funding supported program structure and evaluation, and led us to develop a promising breastfeeding support model. This partnership propelled the organization into the local, state and national spotlight resulting in Center for Disease Control recognition and an Associated Press article of the organization’s impact. Our work has been sustained beyond the grant to expand educational services. The community voice and families experiencing infant mortality have a direct link and pathway for honest dialogue that we optimistically foresee will reverse the landscape and tragedy of not only infant mortality but Black health.”

– Dalvery Blackwell, Executive Director African American Breastfeeding Network, Inc.

“The Wisconsin Partnership Program has given the Menominee community the tools and support to bring synergy and collaboration to our health-focused agencies. The renewed focus on Food Sovereignty among the state’s Native Nations and the development of our very own Department of Agriculture would not have happened if the foundation and network of our Menominee Wellness Initiative was not present. Partnership Program funding as well as the remarkable support provided by liaison staff has been a true blessing to the Menominee People.”

– Scott Kruger, RD, CD, CDE Menominee Tribal Clinic
Wisconsin Partnership Program Testimonials

What Wisconsin Partnership Program Funding Has Meant to Communities

OPIOIDS, MENTAL HEALTH, AODA, SUICIDE PREVENTION

Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland Counties

“Because of severe economic and social pressures combined with the absence of providers, our rural, farming communities in southwestern Wisconsin are experiencing an epidemic of opioid abuse disorders. The resources made available to us by the Wisconsin Partnership Program are all that we have to help us provide services to support persons with addictions to recover and live normal lives.”

Walter Orzechowski, Executive Director, Southwest Community Action Program


“Throughout Wisconsin in all areas, but especially in the marginally-served rural communities, the problems of poor behavioral health including mental illness, addiction and suicide have worsened in the past few years. WPP’s financial support and their efforts to bring together their grantees to identify opportunities to amplify impact by working collaboratively was the catalyst for coordinated efforts to deal with these issues across county lines and traditional funding siloes, applying successful efforts from one rural location to another in a way that could not be accomplished otherwise.”

Rachel Stankowski, Family Health Center of Marshfield and Walter Orzechowski, Executive Director, Southwest Community Action Program [This quote is from two Community Impact Grantees that began working collaboratively due to WPP efforts.]

Jefferson, Washington, Racine, Waukesha, and Milwaukee Counties

“Before we received the WPP award we were a group of communities working toward similar goals but we didn't know how to combine our efforts to move them forward. Our work centers around Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) protocols to address alcohol and other substance use among teens. The WPP connected us with an academic partner, Dr. Rich Brown, who taught us how to best implement this protocol and it also encouraged us to coordinate our work for greater impact. The WPP grant was also instrumental in bringing to Wisconsin additional multi-year, competitive grant funds for expanding SBIRT access in both school district and provider settings. The Partnership Program's emphasis on both academic partnerships and local community-based leadership was critical to the success and sustainability of these efforts.”

Julie Whelan-Capell, IMPACT

Fond du Lac County

“Funds received from the Wisconsin Partnership Program have provided more students the opportunity to be screened for mental health concerns in the school setting and be connected with further services if needed. These much needed services include referral to a community-based mental health provider for further evaluation of mental health symptoms and/or referral to a school counselor for continued support and monitoring.”

Lindsey Bruins, Fond du Lac School District
“Engaging Wisconsin Communities for Substance Abuse Prevention was a tremendously successful project that has made a positive impact within the city of Marshfield and many other Wisconsin communities. The funding supported a heightened community awareness of the risks and issues associated with underage drinking and in particular, the provision of alcohol to youth. This project also facilitated the establishment of Community Health Action Teams (CHATs) within the Marshfield Clinic system, a vehicle through which Marshfield Clinic leadership convene in each division (Central, North, West, East, Northwest) on a quarterly basis to advise, direct and consult with Marshfield Clinic Center for Community Outreach staff on the health improvement activities. Several of the members of clinic leadership are also recognized as faculty with the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, which serves to reinforce and expand the role of the UW medical school faculty in community health improvement activities. This vehicle has served to integrate community health improvement activities into the mission and work of the largest group medical practice in Wisconsin.”

Ronda Kopelke, Former Director, Marshfield Center for Community Outreach

Statewide

“My community-based research focuses on addressing tobacco use by our most vulnerable smokers. The Wisconsin Partnership Program supported this work even before the wider tobacco control community fully recognized the importance of addressing tobacco disparity populations. It has made three enduring of this epidemic. Young people are being empowered to stay strong in the face of the opioid crisis. However, it does not stop there; parents and community members are asking to be involved as well, extending the reach and impact of our Partnership Program award.”

Jon Henkes, WisconsinEye

Jackson County

“Together for Jackson County Kids received a grant from the Wisconsin Partnership Program to improve agency and community collaboration around alcohol and other drug abuse. This funding enabled us to offer new opportunities for community education and create new community resources that would not have been possible without the support from WPP. The window for saving a life during an overdose is very small and life-saving assistance is needed very quickly in these situations. This funding supported training for local safety/rescue agencies on how to use overdose preventative drugs, which they all now carry and use to save lives. Funding from WPP was the catalyst in improving our community’s chances of fighting the opioid epidemic and moving us forward in a positive direction. We now feel like we have a fighting chance in this battle due to improved education, additional resources and continued collaborations among passionate partners. Thank you WPP.”

Lisa Listle, Jackson County

Statewide

This testimonial refers to three grants to community organizations with the Center for Tobacco Research and Implementation (Bruce Christiansen, PHD) as academic partner.
partnerships between the Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention (UW-CTRI) and key community agencies possible. In 2007, Partnership funding permitted us to establish a partnership with the Salvation Army to address tobacco use by smokers living in poverty. This initial funding lead to numerous additional projects and this partnership continues today, over ten years later. In 2014, the Partnership program funded a collaboration between UW-CTRI and The National Alliance on Mental Illness - Wisconsin (NAMI-Wisconsin) to address tobacco use by those affected by a mental illness or other addiction. This partnership continues through other projects and endures today. Most recently, in 2018, the Partnership program began funding the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation (WWHF) and UW-CTRI to expand WWHF’s innovative program to help low-income women who smoke across the state. Partnership funding has permitted new smoking cessation programming for our most vulnerable populations who continue to smoke in large numbers.”

Bruce Christiansen, UW Center for Tobacco Research and Implementation

Statewide

"Funding from the Wisconsin Partnership Program has significantly impacted our ability to serve low-income pregnant and postpartum women, and their families, statewide. Specifically, their support allowed our First Breath perinatal smoking cessation program to expand our reach in both urban and rural communities by implementing a new Ask-Advise-Refer model that is easier for clinics and service agencies to incorporate into their workflows."

WI Women's Health Foundation

PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTHCARE, AND HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

Polk, Burnett, Barron, Ashland, Iron, Vilas, Bayfield Counties

"The partnership grant awarded to the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. (GLITC) afforded our UW School of Nursing opportunities to collaborate with GLITC in addressing two important goals: advancing culturally congruent care for American Indian people and increasing the number of American Indian youth interested in nursing careers. It also strengthened and expanded relationships between our School and tribal communities throughout WI. It supported the inception of the Native Nations Nursing Summits, now an annual event. The Partnership Project also laid the foundation for a federal Health Resources and Services Administration Nursing Workforce Diversity grant—a four-year $1.3 million dollar project designed to increase the number of American Indian nurses in WI. These two projects contributed to the university’s most recent approval of our School of Nursing to be one of three units involved in a cluster hire intended to create a research nexus of environment, health and community within Native American contexts. The School of Nursing is planning to recruit an Assistant Professor of Nursing and Native American Chronic Disease Prevention and Management. The impact of that initial Partnership Program grant will extend for many years."

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council: Increasing Cultural Congruence Among Nurses in Wisconsin; Audrey Tluczek, PHD, RN, FAAN, School of Nursing

Menominee County

"The Wisconsin Partnership Program has given the Menominee community the tools and support to bring synergy and collaboration to our health-focused agencies. The renewed focus on Food Sovereignty among the state’s Native Nations and the development of our very own Department of Agriculture would not have happened if the foundation and network of our
Menominee Wellness Initiative was not present. WPP funding as well as the remarkable support provided by liaison staff has been a true blessing to the Menominee People.”

Scott Krueger, RD, CD, CDE, Menominee Tribal Clinic

Adams, Barron, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Price, Rusk, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vilas, Washburn, Waupaca, and Wood Counties

"Without the Wisconsin Partnership Program funding, it would not be possible to expand programming intended to screen for and address needs related to the social determinants of health, incorporate the voices of the directly affected, and demonstrate the impact of this work on clinical outcomes, healthcare use patterns, and the satisfaction of patients, providers, community organizations, and campus and community volunteers. Wisconsin Partnership Program’s focus on authentic engagement of the directly affected in solutions to promote health equity ensures that the programs it funds are truly community-driven and promotes effective, sustainable, long-term change. Opportunities for ongoing learning, collaboration, and technical assistance offered by the Wisconsin Partnership Program are unmatched by any other funder and ensure that grantees can work across traditional boundaries between geographies, municipalities, and sectors to have the greatest possible impact in Wisconsin communities.”

Jay Shrader, Vice President, Community Health and Wellness, Marshfield Clinic

Douglas, Bayfield, Iron, Ashland, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Price, Oneida, Polk, Barron, Rusk, Taylor, Lincoln, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Clark, Marathon, Wood, Portage, Monroe, Jackson, La Crosse, Trempealeau, Buffalo, Pepin, Pierce Counties

"Without Wisconsin Partnership Program funding, it would not be possible to expand experiential learning opportunities in health equity to multiple Wisconsin institutions of higher learning. Wisconsin Partnership Program funding is supporting the development of health equity curricular and co-curricular initiatives at multiple UW System institutions to ensure a further pipeline of professionals and citizens who understand health equity and have practical skills to promote it. We are proud UW-Eau Claire faculty and students are part of the Community Connections Team program and proud of the value this program is adding to communities in our catchment area.”

Patricia A Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-Eau Claire

Juneau, Adams, Waushara, Marquette, Green Lake, Waupaca Counties

"The member counties of the Central WI Health Partnership (CWHP) who represent the “Central Sands” agricultural region of central Wisconsin, are home to a rural population of 157,800 with an average per-capita income of $23,500. Among the poorest in the state, this population historically ranks in the bottom quarter of Wisconsin counties for health determinants as determined by the County Health Rankings in a range of areas that directly affect mental health and physical well-being. Partnership Program support has allowed us to develop a continuum of care within the CWHP region that centers on community wellness and natural supports. By engaging leaders and empowering the community, we hope to improve health outcomes.”

Central WI Health Partnership

Northern Wisconsin Tribal Communities

“Over the last few years WISDOM has been able to expand its community organizing work to engage the Native American Communities in Northern Wisconsin. This profound work has helped us learn how to not be just multi-racial and multi-faith, but also multi-cultural. We have seen great work happening with tribes reclaiming their language and ensuring that their
language and traditions are taught to the next generation. We would not have been able to do this work if the Wisconsin Partnership Program had not changed their emphasis to focus on health equity.”

Catoya Roberts, CO-Director, WISDOM

Rock County

“In Rock County we have been very fortunate to participate in the WPP-funded Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute (HWLI) Community Teams Program and Coach Team Program. This experience has paided dividends to not only our health department and health systems, but to our community at large. The HWLI team helps us to think outside of the box, to push ourselves outside of our comfort zone, and to move the work forward. Through the Wisconsin Partnership Program’s investment in the Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute (HWLI) we are working every day to make Rock County healthy and inclusive place for all.”

Kelly Klingensmith, MPH Community Health Education Coordinator & Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) Coordinator Rock County Public Health Department

Shawano, Waupaca, Outagamie, Waushara, Winnebago, Calumet, Marquette, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, and Menominee Counties

“The Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute (HWLI) has been a great experience for the East Central Health in Planning Team. As a team, we have gained knowledge, skills and tools that make our work more effective and efficient. The HWLI has also strengthened relationships within our multidisciplinary team, which has resulted in a greater collective impact for our region. In addition to being very responsive, HWLI staff create an engaging learning environment where we have exponentially increased our amount of health and team-building knowledge.”

Tom Baron, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

The Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute has also supported this work in the following counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Brown, Buffalo, Burnett, Calumet, Chippewa, Dane, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Kenosha, La Crosse, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marquette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Monroe, Oneida, Outagamie, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Richland, Rock, Shawano, St. Croix, Taylor, Vilas, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, Wood.

Statewide

“Without the WPP grant, the Wisconsin Coalition for Collaborative Excellence in Assisted Living (WCCEAL) would not be where it is today.

• Our collaborative is stronger than ever reaching both rural and urban assisted living communities in most of our counties statewide, impacting the health and quality of life of over 11,000 assisted living residents.

• The grant has allowed us to work closely with a new association, the Milwaukee Area Allied Provider Network (MAAPN), made up of primarily minority owned businesses, many who serve residents with significant health disparities.

• Due to WPP, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) agreed to match Federal Administrative funding because they see that membership in a WCCEAL community can benefit Medicaid beneficiaries.”

Kevin Coughlin, Department of Health Services Long Term Care

Dane County

“I wanted to express my support for the direction taken by Wisconsin Partnership Program to stay on the cutting edge of public health and make room for innovative approaches that address the root causes of health inequities. Without this approach, Nehemiah would not have been able to develop and offer a new course at UW
addressing health care specifically in correctional settings. Training future health care providers to be aware of how our criminal justice system operates and the specific effects of incarceration on health and the health of communities across Wisconsin and the nation will put UW Madison on the map once again as a national leader on this issue. WPP’s grant programs recognize community partners, who specifically address social determinants of health on a daily basis, to be experts on an equal playing field as their academic partner.

This recognition allows for not only stronger, more informed research, but also increases the knowledge base and opens new avenues of inquiry and innovation.”

Karen Reece, PhD, Vice President of Research and Education, Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND PEDIATRIC HEALTH

Vernon County

"Support from the Wisconsin Partnership Program fostered a collaborative community-academic partnership aimed at improving newborn screening and health care delivery to Wisconsin Amish children. With this award, we were able to rapidly diagnose numerous genetic disorders through development of low cost genetic testing and improved access to newborn screening. The partnership enabled by our award has left a growing legacy. Not only has our project improved the health of Amish children in Wisconsin, it has informed approaches to medical care for all children. Our Wisconsin Partnership Program award has enriched student educational experiences and nurtured new biomedical research studies.”

Christine Seroogy, MD, SMPH Pediatrics

Door County

"Because of the funding provided by the Wisconsin Partnership Program, the Door County Public Health Department, UW-Extension Door County, Door County Partnership for Children and Families, and the Sturgeon Bay School District collaborated to provide training and support to enhance the social and environmental conditions for Door County parents and pre-K through second grade children. This funding was essential in allowing our organizations to bring these programs to Door County – and to provide them free of charge to the community. Because of the success we have seen in the past two years, our goal is to continue offering these programs throughout Door County.”

Candis Dart, Coordinator, Door County Partnership for Children and Families

Milwaukee County

"Working with the Wisconsin Partnership Program has been invaluable. Through the partnership with WPP, we have been able to expand critical programming to Milwaukee youth. This partnership has allowed us to create a fellowship leadership development model for young people to be trained on health inequalities, positive youth impact, and storytelling for change. Without a solid partnership and support from the staff at Wisconsin Partnership Program, this would not have been possible. We greatly appreciate their thoughtfulness around their grant making, and striving for impact where needed.”

Dakota Hall, Executive Director, Leaders Igniting Transformation (LIT)

Marquette, Monroe, Winnebago, Sawyer, Forest Counties

"We've had the privilege of being supported by the Wisconsin Partnership Program to expand a pilot of a statewide program that aimed to decrease
early childhood obesity rates through increased physical activity in early education settings. The expansion focused on communities of color and of lower socioeconomic status. The resources and supports piloted have now been integrated into training, technical assistance and the evaluation criteria for YoungStar, Wisconsin’s Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System.

The Partnership Program has also supported our efforts to promote the five protective factors against child abuse and neglect by connecting parents and bolstering a sense of community. Together, these parents are developing and mastering leadership skills that will advance community-driven projects aimed at reducing adverse childhood experiences.

Without the Wisconsin Partnership Program and its strategic funding priorities, we would not have been able to have impact in ways that build capacity and sustainability across local communities in our state. We are deeply appreciative of the resources and supports that Wisconsin Partnership Program has put behind our initiatives, so that we can advance the health equity starting with our youngest children and families.”

Jill Hoiting, Director, Supporting Families Together Association

Milwaukee County

“According to state and national data, chronic absenteeism — which has a profoundly negative effect on student achievement — is closely correlated with ongoing and/or unmet health care needs (U.S. Department of Education, 2016). Our WPP grant focused on the importance of school attendance, and of addressing the health barriers related to chronic absenteeism. Our grant has enabled us to provide parent engagement activities, focus groups, and supports for families in transition; in addition, the grant was critical in encouraging collaboration with other community partners. Most critical has been our collaboration with our local health department. Their nurses have spoken with local pediatricians and clinics to share the information about chronic absenteeism and how it is the leading cause/determinant of high school graduation. The WPP grant provided us with funding needed to address the barriers of health disparities that prevent the children of my community from attending school and reducing their educational opportunities for a healthier life.”

Marla Blom, West Allis / West Milwaukee School District

INFANT MORTALITY AND LIFECOURSE INITIATIVE FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES (LIHF)

Racine County

“The Lifecourse Initiatives for Healthy Families (LIHF), in my opinion, is the only collaborative in Kenosha and Greater Racine that has been successful in bringing all the key players together including grass roots organizations that are on the front lines to discuss the issues and working to solving the problem of infant mortality. By working together, we have been instrumental in addressing the goals and long-term strategies to improve the health of our women and children.

We also create a better impact to improve the relationship between women and health care providers, more awareness about support services and resources, and support for fathers. The LIHF work is not finished. There are still long-term efforts to save lives and save our community.”

GeorgAnn Stinson-Dockery; Kenosha & Racine LIHF Collaborative Member. President, Professional Women’s Network for Service, Program Director, Birthing Project USA-Southeast Wisconsin
Racine County

“Racine LIHF has been a significant force in raising awareness in Racine about infant mortality. Before attending a LIHF meeting in 2010, I did not know anything about an infant mortality rate or the impact it has on a community. As parents who have lost an infant, my husband and I understand the pain and more importantly the need for support. Through LIHF, we realized that we were not alone. As a direct result of attending a LIHF meeting, I created a business to provide transportation for pregnant women and households with infants to medical appointments. LIHF has definitely changed lives including my family. I look forward in LIHF continuing its work in Wisconsin.”

Nicole Urquhart, Baby Express Transportation, Owner, Racine LIHF Collaborative Co-Chair

Milwaukee County

“Over the past five years there has been significant foundational work done through the LIHF program in Milwaukee. LIHF has been able to sustain its partners and really begin to educate those around areas that can significantly affect outcomes for children and families. Through strong collaborations, LIHF has been able to identify specific areas that we believe will provide guidance for our work moving forward: community engagement, housing, and access (through transportation) to medical appointments. Consistency of messages throughout our communities is imperative for having significant impact.”

Wanda J. Montgomery, Director of Community Partnerships, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee LIHF Steering Committee Co-Chair

Kenosha County

“LIHF has given voice to the persistent disparities of Infant Mortality, evidenced based interventions and strategies that have been implemented because of collaborative discussions to help reduce the rates within our community. LIHF has been the engine to address elements of social determinants of health within the African American community that includes strengthening families and addressing Mental Health concerns through the Home Visitation program and access to health care.”

Gwen Perry-Brye, RNC, DNP, Clinical Services Director/Asst. Health Officer, Kenosha County Health Department, Kenosha LIHF Convening Agency

Dane County

“Our organization was created specifically for the purpose of addressing and eliminating the stagnant and persistent health disparities that color Black women's lives in this community---and across Wisconsin. Wisconsin leads the nation in Black infant mortality, and is the only state where the life expectancy of Black women is declining. The urgency of resolving these disparities and others cannot be underscored enough. The Wisconsin Partnership Program provides a critical and necessary pathway to bolstering and advancing sustainable solutions to address these challenges, rooted in powerful partnerships and collaboration. The many initiatives and projects funded by the program across the state are making real and measurable gains, and are doing so in unprecedented ways by bringing community, campus and other key stakeholders across many sectors together for lasting impact and shared accountability for improving the well-being of every member of our community. With WPP's support, we can and are transforming the health and well-being of all of Wisconsin's citizens--including the most marginalized.”

Lisa Peyton-Caire, Founder and President, Foundation for Black Women's Wellness

Dane County

“Funding from the Wisconsin Partnership Program is an excellent exemplar for supporting public health initiatives lead by the community directly affected by health inequalities. WPP's financial investment to support the efforts of Latinas community wellness workers to
work with post-partum Latina moms’ in areas of self-care, mental health and baby/infant breastfeeding and nutrition, is a clear statement of wanting to move the needle on health equity for all Latino families in Dane County. WPP understands that health equity will not be achieved under the current state of affairs in health care policy, delivery, and funding. In contrast, when we look at health outcomes through the lenses of equity and cultural intelligence, we end-up with well-being and social justice. Two completely different perspectives, but yet two sides of the same coin."

Mariela Centeno, Director of Wellness Programs, Centro Hispano of Dane County

SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

Since its inception, the WPP has provided robust support to educational efforts through the following programs. The success of these programs is illustrated through their impact, sustainability and the testimonials of medical students, residents, and medical faculty included below:

Transforming Medical Education

“Support from the Wisconsin Partnership Program has helped us make meaningful changes in medical education that will help our future physicians understand the world beyond the exam room, and how that world shapes the health of their patients. We are also proud to be part of a program that is the first of its kind in the country.”

Shobina G. Chheda, MD, MPH, Associate Dean for Medical Education

“AT UW SMPH we are immersed in both patient-centered and community-based approaches to practicing medicine. When we build strong relationships with communities early in medical school, we can ensure that our graduates will continue this practice throughout their careers. These relationships, based on mutual trust and understanding, are what will ultimately benefit communities and individuals statewide.”

Surbhi Singhal, MD Student, Class of 2016

“The new curriculum's integrated model will help students learn medical facts and concepts in the context of a wider, more relational view of medicine and public health. It will allow for powerful, transformative learning through deeper and longer relationships with patients in the context of real-world health system experiences.”

Kyla Lee, MD, Director of Gundersen's Traditional Medical Students Program

UW SMPH Preventative Medicine Program

“The connections and broader perspectives of public health, health systems and academia made during my residency through various rotations and projects have proven to be invaluable. The lens through which I now practice family medicine and approach scholarly and community projects is so much more well-informed. I also have a toolkit of resources that I would have never discovered without my training experience.”

Karina Atwell, MD, MPH (family practice physician Verona Family Medicine Clinic)
“I have seen how our “big picture” training allows us to promote interventions that reach whole communities at the same time that we account for the individual preferences and the human factors involved in our health care. UW Madison gave me the opportunity to learn and practice my passion, and provided me all the resources required to be successful in my career path.”

Maria Mora Pinzon, MD, MPH, Assistant Researcher UW SMPH UW Alzheimer’s Institute

Wisconsin Academy of Rural Medicine

“My clinical training in Wisconsin’s rural communities was the highlight of my medical education. Working with rural underserved populations has provided valuable insight into the unique needs of rural communities and the challenges faced by rural health care providers.”

“As a WARM student, I had hopes and aspirations that I would get more hands-on experience, as well as be the small-town doctor that so many movies depict. In general, it was all true, and I got much more hands-on experience than my colleagues in the regular program.”

Matthew Herbst, MD ‘15

“In WARM, we experience firsthand what it is like to be a community doctor. The mentorship is phenomenal.”

Matthew Herbs, MD ‘15

“Having the opportunity to train in a rural environment for my third and fourth years of medical school and for residency deepened my resolve to be a rural general practitioner– in part, because I saw the need in rural areas.”

Nathan Vakharia, MD’ 11

Master's in Public Health Program

“My experiences at UW with the MPH Program have been integral in developing as a physician and person. The coursework and capstone project provided a foundation for practicing ethical medicine while striving to confront modern public health issues as a member of a multi-disciplinary team. I was prepared to identify and address social determinants of health witnessed on shifts in the emergency department, at the capitol, and globally. From climate change to environmental disasters to communicable disease, I collected a toolbox of skills to apply to any situation both now and in the future.”

Caitlin Rublee, MD, MPH

“My experiences at UW with the MPH Program have been integral in developing as a physician and person. The coursework and capstone project provided a foundation for practicing ethical medicine while striving to confront modern public health issues as a member of a multi-disciplinary team. I was prepared to identify and address social determinants of health witnessed on shifts in the emergency department, at the capitol, and globally. From climate change to environmental disasters to communicable disease, I collected a toolbox of skills to apply to any situation both now and in the future.”

Mal Mathur, MD, MPH