



# **WWAMI**

## **Idaho WWAMI**

**(Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana,  
Idaho) Medical Education Program**

**Strategic Plan  
2017-2021**

**WWAMI is Idaho's regional medical education program**, under the leadership and institutional mission of the **University of Idaho**, in partnership with the **University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM)**. In August 2015, we began the new 2015 WWAMI medical school curriculum at all six WWAMI sites. Students started with a multi-week clinical immersion experience—intensively learning the clinical skills and professional habits to serve them throughout their careers. For their first 18 months, students spend a full day each week learning and practicing clinical skills in a community primary care clinic and in workshops. This is in addition to their hospital-based Colleges training with a faculty mentor and small group of peers. This new curriculum allows our students to be on the University of Idaho campus for 3 terms, instead of 2. It also provides our medical students with the option to spend all four years of their medical education in the State of Idaho. The development and implementation of the new WWAMI curriculum is first in the nation to represent the collaborative efforts of faculty, staff, students and others across many states in building and implementing an entire common curriculum.

Over the past three years, the Idaho State Legislature appropriated funding to continue the support for 5 more first-year medical seats in the Idaho WWAMI Targeted Rural and Underserved Track program (TRUST). The mission of TRUST is to provide a continuous connection between underserved communities, medical education, and health professionals in our region. This creates a full-circle pipeline that guides qualified students through a special curriculum connecting them with underserved communities in Idaho. In addition, this creates linkages to the UWSOM's network of affiliated residency programs. The goal of this effort is to increase the medical workforce in underserved regions. In addition, the State of Idaho appropriated funding for 5 additional traditional WWAMI students, expanding the Idaho class size to 35 medical students starting in fall 2015 with the ultimate goal of reaching 40 medical students by fall 2016.

As the **medical education contract program for the State of Idaho** with the University of Washington, the **UI-WWAMI Medical Program** supports the Strategic Action Plan of its host university, the University of Idaho, while recognizing its obligation

to the mission, goals, and objectives of its nationally accredited partner program, the UWSOM.

UWSOM and its partners in the WWAMI region are dedicated to improving the general health and wellbeing of the public. In pursuit of our goals, we are committed to **excellence in biomedical education, research, and health care**. The UWSOM and WWAMI are also dedicated to ethical conduct in all of our activities. As the **pre-eminent academic medical center in our region** and as a national leader in biomedical research, UWSOM places special emphasis on educating and training physicians, scientists, and allied health professionals **dedicated to two distinct missions**:

- **Meeting the health care and workforce needs of our region**, especially by recognizing the importance of **primary care** and providing service to **underserved populations**;
- **Advancing knowledge** and assuming leadership in the **biomedical sciences and in academic medicine**.

We acknowledge a **special responsibility to the people** in the states of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and **Idaho**, who have joined in a unique regional partnership. UWSOM and WWAMI are **committed to building and sustaining a diverse academic community** of faculty, staff, fellows, residents, and students and **to assuring that access to education and training** is open to learners from all segments of society, acknowledging a **particular responsibility to the diverse populations within our region**.

### **Vision for Medical Student Education**

Our students will be highly competent, knowledgeable, caring, culturally sensitive, ethical, dedicated to service, and engaged in lifelong learning.

### **UWSOM – Idaho WWAMI Medical Student Education Mission Statement**

Our mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities throughout the WWAMI region, the nation, and the world through educating, training, and mentoring our students to be excellent physicians.

### **Goals for Medical Student Education**

In support of our mission to educate physicians, our goals for medical student training are to:

1. Challenge students and faculty to achieve excellence;
2. Maintain a learner-centered curriculum that focuses on patient-centered care and that is innovative and responsive to changes in medical practice and healthcare needs;
3. Provide students with a strong foundation in science and medicine that prepares them for diverse roles and careers;
4. Advance patient care and improve health through discovery and application of new knowledge;
5. Teach, model, and promote:
  - a. the highest standards of professionalism, honor, integrity, empathy, compassion, and respect;
  - b. a team approach to the practice of medicine, including individual responsibility and accountability, with respect for the contributions of all health professions and medical specialties;
  - c. the skills necessary to provide quality care in a culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate manner;
6. Encourage students to maintain and model a balanced and healthy lifestyle;
7. Foster dedication to service, including caring for the underserved;
8. Engage students in healthcare delivery, public health, and research to strengthen their understanding of healthcare disparities and regional and global health issues; and
9. Provide leadership in medical education, research, and health policy for the benefit of those we serve regionally, nationally, and globally.

**Alignment with the Idaho State Board of Education’s Strategic Plan**  
**2017-2021**

**Goal I: A WELL EDUCATED CITIZENRY** –Continuously improve access to medical education for individuals of all backgrounds, ages, abilities, and economic means.

**Objective A: Access** - Provide outreach activities that help recruit a strong medical student applicant pool for Idaho WWAMI.

- **Performance measure:** the number of Idaho WWAMI medical school applicants per year and the ratio of Idaho applicants per funded medical student seat.
- **Benchmark:** National ratio of state applicants to medical school per state-supported seats.<sup>1</sup>

**Objective B: Transition to Workforce** - Maintain a high rate of return for Idaho WWAMI graduate physicians who choose to practice medicine in Idaho, equal to or better than the national state return rate.

- **Performance measure:** Cumulative Idaho WWAMI return rate for graduates who practice medicine in Idaho.
- **Benchmark:** target rate – national average or better.<sup>2</sup>

**GOAL 2: CRITICAL THINKING AND INNOVATION** - WWAMI will provide an environment for the development of new ideas, and practical and theoretical knowledge to foster the development of biomedical researchers, medical students, and future physicians who contribute to the health and wellbeing of Idaho’s people and communities.

**Objective A: Critical Thinking, Innovation and Creativity** – Generate research and development of new ideas into solutions that benefit health and society.

- **Performance Measure:** WWAMI faculty funding from competitive federally funded grants.
- **Benchmark:** \$3M annually, through FY17.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Based on nationally set standards. The benchmark is the national ratio of state applicants to medical school to the number of state supported seats.

<sup>2</sup> Based on national set standards. 41% is the national average of students that return to their native state to practice medicine

<sup>3</sup> Based on available resources for pursuing external grants and increased competitive nature of federal awards.

**Objective B: Innovation and Creativity** – Educate medical students who will contribute creative and innovative ideas to enhance health and society.

- **Performance Measures:** Percentage of Idaho WWAMI medical students participating in medical research (laboratory and/or community health)
- **Benchmark:** 100% <sup>4</sup>

**Objective C: Quality Instruction** – Provide excellent medical education in biomedical sciences and clinical skills.

- **Performance measure:** pass rate on the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), Steps 1 & 2, taken during medical training.
- **Benchmark:** U.S. medical student pass rates, Steps 1 & 2.<sup>5</sup>

**GOAL 3: Effective and Efficient Delivery Systems** – Deliver medical education, training, research, and service in a manner which makes efficient use of resources and contributes to the successful completion of our medical education program goals for Idaho.

**Objective A:** Increase medical student early interest in rural and primary care practice in Idaho.

- **Performance measure:** the number of WWAMI rural summer training placements in Idaho each year.
- **Benchmark:** 20 rural training placements following first year of medical education.<sup>6</sup>

**Objective B:** Increase medical student participation in Idaho clinical rotations (clerkships) as a part of their medical education.

- **Performance measure:** the number of WWAMI medical students completing clerkships in Idaho each year.
- **Benchmark:** 20 clerkship students each year.<sup>6</sup>

**Objective C:** Support and maintain interest in primary care and identified physician workforce specialty needs for medical career choices among Idaho WWAMI students.

---

<sup>4</sup> Internally set benchmark as measure of program quality. All students at the UWSOM must participate in a research activity.

<sup>5</sup> Based on national standards

<sup>6</sup> Based on state needs and available resources

- **Performance measure:** Percent of Idaho WWAMI graduates choosing primary care, psychiatry, general surgery, and OB/GYN specialties for residency training each year.
- **Benchmark:** 50% of Idaho WWAMI graduating class choosing needed work force specialties for residency training each year.<sup>7</sup>

**Objective D:** Maintain a high level Return on Investment (ROI) for all WWAMI graduates who return to practice medicine in Idaho.

- **Performance measure:** Ratio of all WWAMI graduates who return to practice medicine in Idaho, regardless of WWAMI origin, divided by the total number of Idaho medical student graduates funded by the State.
- **Benchmark:** target ratio – 60%<sup>8</sup>

**Objective E:** Efficiently deliver medical education under the WWAMI contract, making use of Idaho academic and training resources.

- **Performance measure:** Percent of Idaho WWAMI medical education contract dollars spent in Idaho each year.
- **Benchmark:** 50%<sup>9</sup>

**Key External Factors** (beyond the control of the Idaho WWAMI Medical Program):

**Funding:** the number of state-supported Idaho medical student seats each year is tied to State legislative appropriations. Availability of revenues and competing funding priorities may vary each year.

**Medical Education Partnerships:** as a distributed medical education model, the University of Idaho and the UWSOM WWAMI Medical Program rely on medical education partnership with local and regional physicians, clinics, hospitals, and other educational institutions in the delivery of medical training in Idaho. The availability of these groups to participate in a distributed model of medical education varies according to their own budget resources and competing demands on their time and staff each year.

**Population Changes in Idaho:** with a growing population and an aging physician workforce, the need for doctors and medical education for Idaho's students only increases. Changes in population statistics in Idaho may affect applicant numbers to medical school, clinical care demands in local communities and hospitals, and availability of training physicians from year to year.

<sup>7</sup> Based on analysis of areas of increase need in Idaho

<sup>8</sup> Based on national standards for program return rates

<sup>9</sup> Based on available Idaho resources.

**New Medical Curriculum Implemented in 2015:** the University of Washington School of Medicine engaged in a major review and revision of the medical school curriculum which will impacted delivery of education and training in the WWAMI programs in Idaho. Given that students will be on the University of Idaho campus for three terms instead of two, adjustments must be made to accommodate the increased number of medical students on campus. Expanded facilities, enhanced technology, additional faculty and support staff are necessary for the additional students and delivering this new state of the art curriculum. The University of Idaho is already anticipating these needs and working toward expanding facilities to accommodate the increased number of students. Tuition funds from third term medical students will help support the program's needs. The University of Idaho has identified and hired the necessary faculty to support programmatic changes implemented in fall 2015. This curriculum renewal offers Idaho the opportunity to keep Idaho students in-state all four years of their medical education, which is a significant advantage in retaining students as they transition to clinical practice.

**For-profit Medical Schools in Idaho:** There is an increasing need for more high quality clerkships for our students. The current challenge in developing clinical training opportunities is that multiple programs such as medical students, physician assistant students, nurse practitioner students, family medicine residents, internal medicine residents and psychiatry residents are all seeking clinical training sites in Idaho. The proposed introduction of a for-profit medical school in Idaho adding 300 additional students needing clinical training, would create significant challenges for clinicians in Idaho to meet those needs. The saturation of clinical training sites in Idaho has the potential to impact clinical opportunities for Idaho's only public supported medical education program housed in Idaho (WWAMI). Without strategic and thoughtful growth for medical education, the states only allopathic medical education opportunities for Idaho residents may be negatively impacted.

### **Supplement: Performance Measures**

Goal 1 / Objective A. The benchmark is the national ratio of state applicants to medical school to the number of state supported seats. The ratio of applicants in Idaho to the number of available seats was 4.7:1; the national ratio of in-state applicants to available seats is 2.2:1.

Goal 1 / Objective B. The benchmark is 41%, the national average of students that return to their native state to practice medicine. In Idaho, the return rate was 51% (292/578).

Goal 2 / Objective A. The benchmark for this objective is \$1.4M annually, through 2017. In FY15, UI WWAMI faculty earned \$2.3M in new funding from federal grants.

Goal 2 / Objective B. The benchmark is 100% of Idaho WWAMI students participating in medical research. All students at the UWSOM must participate in a research activity.

Goal 2 / Objective C. The benchmark for the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), Steps 1 & 2, is the U. S. medical student pass rates.

Goal 3 / Objective A. The benchmark is 20 rural training placements following the first year of medical education. During the past summer, 23 students completed a R/UOP experience in Idaho.

Goal 3 / Objective B. The benchmark is 20 clerkship students per year in Idaho. The Idaho Track is a voluntary program of the University of Washington School of Medicine in which students complete the majority of required clinical clerkships within Idaho. Third-year Idaho Track medical students complete five of six required clerkships in Idaho, and fourth-year Idaho Track medical students complete three of four required clerkships in Idaho. Twelve third-year students and seventeen fourth-year students participated in the Idaho Track during the 2014-2015 academic year. In addition to Idaho Track students, other UWSOM students rotated among the various clinical clerkships in Idaho. During academic year 2014-15, a total of 91 UWSOM students completed one or more clinical rotations in Idaho. Those 91 medical students completed a total of 260 individual clinical rotations in Idaho.

Goal 3 / Objective C. The benchmark is 50% of the Idaho WWAMI graduating class choosing a specialty for residency training that is needed in the state (primary care, psychiatry, general surgery, and OB/GYN specialties). The specialties of the 2015 graduating class are as follows:

- Emergency medicine (1)
- Family Medicine (6)
- Internal Medicine (5)
- Obstetrics – Gynecology (3)
- Transitional Medicine (1)
- Orthopedic surgery (1)
- Pediatrics (4)
- Radiation – Diagnostic (1)
- Vascular Surgery (1)

Goal 3 / Objective D. The benchmark for the Return on Investment (ROI) for all WWAMI graduates who return to practice medicine in Idaho is 60%. The current ROI is 75% (435/578).

Goal 3 / Objective E. The benchmark for this objective is 50%, the percentage of Idaho WWAMI medical education dollars spent in Idaho each year. In FY15, 72% of the State appropriations were spent in Idaho.