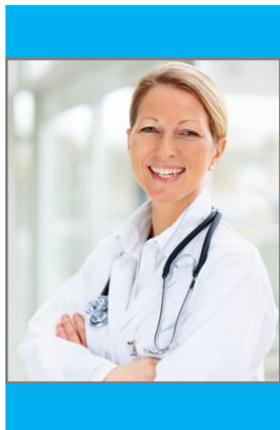


# HEALTHCARE HEADLINES

The Rural AHEC Newsletter for  
Healthcare Professions Students



## What's New?

### Medical School Develops LGBTQ+ Inclusive Curriculum

The Brown Daily Herald

In response to findings that med students only receive about five hours of education on health care needs of the LGBTQ+ community, the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University introduced an optional scholarly concentration in LGBTQ Healthcare and Advocacy, plus opportunities throughout the curriculum for students to train in caring for the LGBTQ+ community. [Read more...](#)

## Rural Healthcare Practice Insights

*Why should you consider practicing medicine in a rural community?*

In this series, we will explore the many reasons why health professions students like you should think about applying to positions in rural areas.

### The Need

Several factors contribute to the significant health disparities that exist between rural and urban/suburban populations.

- Lack of, and lower accessibility to, primary care physicians
- Longer distances and higher expenses associated with travel to healthcare providers
- Lower average household income
- Limited employment opportunities and the resulting lack of health benefits
- Greater percentage of seniors in the population
- Higher rates of tobacco use and other lifestyle choices that negatively impact health

Read more about health disparities in this Rural Health Information Hub article:

<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/rural-health-disparities>

Topic Discussion will continue in the Spring Newsletter (May 2019).



## Debt Relief Tips:

Several pathways are available that lead to debt relief, including:

- **Employer Benefits**
- **Scholarship Programs**
- **Loan Repayment and Forgiveness Programs**
- **Smart Loan Management Options**

### Employer Benefits

Many medical facilities offer incentives in order to recruit qualified candidates to their sites. For example, **signing bonuses** are a way to attract physicians to a practice in need. According to *The Medicus Firm*, signing bonuses average \$25,000, a sum that could **significantly reduce your debt** if you make an extra payment on the principal amount of your loan.

Find more helpful tips and hints on how to relieve your healthcare student debt in each quarterly issue of R-AHEC's **HEALTHCARE HEADLINES** Healthcare Professions Student Newsletter.

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**Check out our webpage for Current Healthcare Job Opportunities, Descriptions of our Programs, and much more... [www.r-ahec.org](http://www.r-ahec.org)**

Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (R-AHEC) is one of nine centers in the New York State Area Health Education Center (NYS AHEC) organization. Our mission is to improve health and healthcare through education.

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