



FRONTIER FOOTNOTES

Idaho Area Health Education Center
A Program of Mountain States Group, Inc.

“Promoting Careers in Health Care in Underserved Idaho Communities”

Winter-Spring 2011

Happy New Year 2011 to all our readers!

The “pipeline” for recruitment and retention in health care professions in Idaho begins in the K-12 years by introducing students to the range of health care professional options and to how health care service delivery works in their community. In this issue of *Frontier Footnotes*, Idaho AHEC recognizes Idaho HOSA as an important part of this health care professional “pipeline” effort.

Idaho Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)

HOSA is a national student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Technology Education Division of ACTE. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. In Idaho, HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition for secondary students enrolled in health occupation programs. Every year, the state HOSA conference in April draws more than 500 Idaho secondary students from the approximately 58 health occupations' programs throughout Idaho. These secondary students compete in venues at the state conference that test their skills and knowledge of the health care field. The top students go on to compete at the national HOSA Conference in the summer. This year's state conference "Through Learning, Practice and Sharing, HOSA's the "Spark" of Caring" is scheduled for **April 6-8, 2011** at the Holiday Inn (Vista) in Boise. An Idaho map of the Idaho Health Professions' Programs can be accessed by linking in to <http://www.pte.idaho.gov/pdf/Health/HOSA/IdahoChapterMap/pdf> For more information about HOSA, contact Jill Humble, HOSA State Director @ jhumble@PTE.IDAHO.GOV

What's New?

Passage of HJR4—and what it means: The Idaho public hospital community will now be able to enter into purchasing agreements exceeding 12 month's provided the debt is not paid with taxpayer monies. HJR4 gives Idaho public hospitals access to the most cost effective terms for anything from leasing a copier to purchasing advanced imaging equipment or expanding emergency rooms.

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What's Inside:

• Idaho Health Occupations Students of America	1
• Passage of HJR4 information	
• Welcome Mary Marinaga, M.D.	2
• Recent Funding Awards	
• Current Funding Opportunities	3
• Idaho Career Information System (CIS)	
• Electronic Health Records (EHR) Update	4
• PECOS (incentive payments)	
• Idaho Health Care Labor Force	5
• Northwest Rural Nurse Residency	
• ISU Health Sciences' Faculty	
• Idaho Health Careers	6
• National and Regional Save the Dates	
• Idaho Save the Dates	7
• Delta Dental and Idaho AHEC Board	8

Visit our website at:
www.idahoahcec.org

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mkinney@mtnstatesgroup.org or call 1-800-836-8064 ext. 253. If you no longer wish to receive this publication, please contact us.



Welcome to Mary Barinaga, M.D.

Idaho AHEC welcomes Dr. Mary Barinaga as Idaho's new WWAMI Assistant Clinical Dean. Dr. Barinaga grew up on a Basque sheep ranch in Cambridge, Idaho and completed her undergraduate education in Zoology at the College of Idaho in 1991. She graduated from the University of Washington School of Medicine WWAMI program in 1995 and completed residency training in Boise at Family Medicine Residency of Idaho in 1998.



For the past twelve years, Dr. Barinaga has been practicing rural family medicine on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation in Plummer, ID. During this time, she has been active in teaching medical students and family medicine residents, as well as serving as a medical student mentor for the Underserved Pathways program at University of Washington's School of Medicine(UWSOM).

In addition to teaching and full-time clinical practice, Dr. Barinaga has served on the UWSOM Idaho Admissions Committee from 2007-2010. Dr. Barinaga is currently president-elect of the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians and has served on the IAFP Board of Directors since 2006, working on many of the behind-the-scenes issues affecting Idaho physicians and patients. Dr. Barinaga started her duties as WWAMI Assistant Clinical Dean on October 15, 2010.

Recent Funding Awardees: CONGRATULATIONS!

Federal Awards

For Primary Care Residency Expansion:

- 2 awards for \$960,000 each to The Family Medicine Residency of Idaho, Inc. (Boise)
- 1 award for \$960,000 to Idaho State University (Pocatello)

State Health Care Workforce Grants: Planning:

- 1 award for \$150,000 to the Idaho Department of Labor (Boise)

State Awards

Annual Rural Health Care Access Program Grants Awarded

The Rural Health Care Access Program (RHCAP) recently awarded more than \$115,800 in grants for nine new projects around the state that will focus on improving access to medical and dental care for people living in areas designated as a health professional shortage area (HPSA) or medically underserved area (MUA). Programs who received funding this year were only awarded one year of funding.

This year's funded projects include:

Ashton Memorial, Inc: (Ashton) \$12,400, retain two clinicians with mileage reimbursement support

Benewah Community Hospital: (St. Maries) \$12,400, retain one clinician with student loan repayment

Boundary Community Hospital: (Bonners Ferry) \$25,000, recruit two clinicians for hospital affiliated primary care practice

Family Health Services: (Twin Falls) \$12,400, offset salaries of dentist and dental hygienist in Fairfield dental clinic

Harms Memorial Hospital District: (American Falls) \$24,800, retain two clinicians with student loan repayment

Oneida County Hospital: (Malad City) \$5,000, recruit clinician by covering relocation expenses

Regence Caring Foundation: (Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, & Shoshone Counties) \$10,000, fluoride clinic outreach project for low-income children

Shoshone Community Health Clinic: (Osburn) \$4,000, provide stipend for patient assistance volunteer who helps with medication application

Terry Reilly Health Services: (Nampa) \$21,800, promote access and provide comprehensive dental care to neediest dental patients

RHCAP helps rural Idaho communities improve access to healthcare services with grant assistance that is funded through the Idaho Legislature. Improving access to healthcare includes removing barriers that prevent people from obtaining healthcare such as socioeconomic, cultural, and geographic factors, as well as inadequate availability of medical staff. RHCAP awards are limited to \$35,000 a year for a maximum of three years. Applicants must be a governmental or non-profit entity. Applications for the next grant year should be available around June 2011. Check for updates at the following website: www.ruralhealth.dhw.idaho.gov

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Loan Repayment Opportunities

The National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program provides \$60,000 (or the outstanding balance of qualifying student loans if it is less than \$60,000), tax free, to primary care medical, dental and mental health clinicians in exchange for two years of service at an approved site in a Health Professional Shortage Area for full-time clinicians, and 4 years of service to part-time clinicians with a minimum of 20 hours a week. Upon completion of the service commitment, clinicians may be eligible to apply for additional support for extended service. You may begin the process today – the clinician must apply and be approved, and the site where patient care is provided must also apply and be approved for the clinician to receive funding. More information may be found at the following website: - or contact Laura Rowen at (208) 334-5993 or RowenL@dhw.idaho.gov

The Idaho Rural Physician Incentive Program (RPIP), authorized by the 2003 Idaho Legislature, was established to encourage primary care physicians to practice in medically underserved areas of Idaho. For the purposes of this program, primary care is defined as family medicine, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics, but if there is a demonstrated high level of need in an eligible area, as determined by the oversight committee, may also include obstetrics and gynecology, general psychiatry, general surgery and emergency medicine. Program benefits allow payment of up to \$50,000 in total toward qualified educational loans of participating health professionals over a one to five year period of service in an eligible area of need. Payments are disbursed directly to a physician's lending institution(s) in six-month increments over their designated service period. Disbursements are for \$10,000 for each year of service. Disbursement of funds for loan repayment began in July 2010. Visit the ID. State Board of Education website www.boardofed.idaho.gov/public_col_univ/rural_phys.asp or contact [Patty Sanchez](mailto:Patty_Sanchez) 208-332-1562 for more information.

Idaho SEARCH Program is taking applications for 2010-2011 awards

Earn While You Learn! The Idaho SEARCH Program is taking applications from health professions students and residents for participation in a National Health Service Corps program that provides quality clinical training opportunities for students and residents in primary care settings. Four- to six-week rotations provide rich experiences in community health in rural communities throughout Idaho. Participants are paired with a primary care preceptor and a community mentor and are required to complete a community project during the rotation. Stipends of up to \$1,500 are awarded to help with living and travel expenses. Train in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environments while earning academic credits and \$\$\$\$. Only 23 awards remain for the current program year, which ends 9/30/11. Medical and dental students and residents, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, dental hygienist, and masters level behavioral health students are eligible to apply. For more information, contact Katrina Hoff, Idaho SEARCH Program Director, at (208) 898-3824 or khoff@idahopca.org or visit <http://idaholiveworkplay.org/training>.

What's New?

Visit <http://www.idahocis.org> - the Idaho Career Information System (CIS) and experience the “new” free public access to the system. The health care career listings and descriptions have also been updated in the CIS. Another feature, “CIS Junior”, is available to Idaho middle school and junior high students.

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS(EHR): UPDATE

LIMITED OPPORTUNITY THROUGH NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE (NIC)

Limited space is still available at NIC for the Spring 2011 **online** 10-credit Electronic Medical Records (EMR) programs. NIC is accepting applications and registering students now for Spring 2011. Courses begin January 10, 2011. To learn more about the programs, view the required coursework at the NIC website link (listed below) under the Program Guidelines, and submit a program application:

Electronic Medical Records Adoption for Healthcare Practices (EMRA)—www.nic.edu/emra

Electronic Medical Records IT Support (EMRITS)— www.nic.edu/emrits

Free tuition is available to healthcare and/or IT facilities who enroll 5 or more employees in one of the 10-credit Electronic Medical Records programs at North Idaho College (NIC)! **Tuition reimbursement** is also available to the first 300 students who complete one of the programs by March 31, 2012!

These programs are only grant funded at NIC through March 31, 2012!

Questions? Please contact:
Sue Shibley, HIT Grant Program Manager
North Idaho College
McLain Hall, Room 108
1000 West Garden Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208)769-7828
www.nic.edu

Sign Up for EHR Incentive Payments!

The first step is sign up to become a WIREC participant. WIREC will ask you to send them some information describing your practice and your needs related to EHR implementation. With that information in hand, the WIREC team can begin to determine the types of assistance your practice will need to reach EHR meaningful use, as well as whether you may qualify for free or reduced-rate participation. **The subsidies will be removed or reduced starting February 2011, so register now to take advantage of this limited opportunity.** Visit the website for WIREC (WA & ID Regional Extension Center) at <http://www.wirecqh.org/apply.cfm> for more information

PECOS record required for providers intending to apply for incentive payments

CMS will be using the Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS) to verify enrollment prior to disbursing Medicare EHR incentive payments. All providers intending to apply for Medicare incentive funding should verify that they have a current PECOS record by completing these steps:

1) Go to the [Medicare enrollment report webpage](http://www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/06_MedicareOrderingandReferring.asp) at http://www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/06_MedicareOrderingandReferring.asp

2) Scroll down the page to see the Downloads listing, open the “Medicare Ordering and Referring File,” and look for your own record.

If your name is listed, you have a current PECOS record. (Note: If you have submitted an enrollment application within the last 90 days, your name may not yet be listed. If your recent enrollment application has been accepted for processing by the carrier or A/B MAC, your record will be considered active.)

If your name is not listed, you must complete the [related application forms](#).

Act now to ensure that you are enrolled in PECOS so that your incentive payment is not delayed.

HEALTH CARE CAREERS

Wide Range of Statistics Available on Idaho's Health Care Labor Force

Data maintained by the Idaho Department of Labor and outlined in the newly released Health Care Business Scan provided a very accurate count of jobs throughout the state in the health care sector. Health care jobs jumped nearly 10 percent from 2007 to 2009, an average increase of 5,900. The other three sectors – private education, social services and utilities – added fewer than 1,600 jobs combined. Every other major sector of the private economy lost jobs during the recession. The Health Care Business Scan was developed to determine how accessible the department's statistics on the health care sector are. The information includes types, number and regional location of businesses, employment, occupations, current and projected jobs, job ratios by population and wages and educational requirements. Some occupational data is not available because there are too few jobs for a representative sample. Wage comparisons can be made with national and border state averages. The Health Care Business Scan is available at <http://lmi.idaho.gov/researchproject>

2011 Enrollment Now Open:

ISU Northwest Rural Nurse Residency: Transition-to-Practice

Improving Retention, Clinical Performance, and Job Satisfaction

Rural nurses are required to have a breadth and depth of knowledge unparalleled in other specialty nursing fields. The immense generalist role of the rural nurse often leads to early burnout and high turnover rates when compared with more urban nurse roles (up to 65% in the first year of practice). Residency or Transition-to- Practice programs have been shown to be an effective means of reducing the turnover of new and transitioning nurses, improving their job satisfaction, and hastening critical thinking skills.

Idaho State University (ISU) developed the Northwest Rural Nurse Residency (NWRNR) program so participants can receive all of their training (64-hours of seminars and a 104-hour supervised clinical experience) from top-notch rural nurse experts while the participants are 'at home' in their own facilities and communities. Using new technologies like web-conferencing and high tech simulation make it possible for the program to be offered at no cost to participants. Program faculty and staff provide support and information for preceptors, residents, and nurse administrators to help ensure a flexible, locally adapted, successful completion of the 12-month program. The next sessions will be starting in **January 2011**. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so apply today! Be one of the first facilities in your area to boast the employment of rural nurse specialists while enjoying the benefits of improved clinical performance and lower nurse turnover. To learn more about the NWRNR please call the ISU Office of Professional Development at (208) 282-3820, email at nurseopd@isu.edu or visit the NWRNR website at <http://www.isu.edu/nursing/opd/nwrnr.shtml>

ISU Announces New Health Sciences' Faculty

In the fall 2010 Idaho State University (ISU) officials announced the appointment of individuals to five leadership positions in the newly created Division of Health Sciences.

- Paul Cady, Dean of the College of Pharmacy, who has been serving as Interim Dean for the last year;
- Tracy Farnsworth, Interim Associate Dean of the Division of Health Sciences and Director of the Kasiska School of Health Professions, a faculty member in the Health Care Administration program;
- Carol Ashton, Associate Dean of the Division of Health Sciences and Director of the School of Nursing, who held these positions in the former Kasiska College of Health Profession;
- Anthony Seikel, Associate Dean of the Division of Health Sciences and Director of the School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences, who previously was a Professor and former Chair of speech pathology and audiology; and
- Paula Phelps, Coordinator of the Office of Medical and Oral Health and Chair of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, who previously was Associate Professor of Physician Assistant Studies.

"I am confident in the individual and collective talent, dedication and knowledge each of these new leaders possess," said Linda Hatzenbuehler, interim Associate Vice President of the Division of Health Sciences. "This is a great team to further Idaho State University's position as Idaho's lead institution in health professions and medical education."



The State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care manages a web-based program called *Idaho Health Careers*. This application allows us to match candidates to opportunities, track vacancies, and direct resources to safety net providers in rural communities and underserved areas of the state. This tool is being offered at no cost to you.

The website will accept vacancy postings from entities in rural communities and areas of the state with a federal designation as an area of underservice. In addition to these criteria, postings will be allowed for Critical Access Hospitals, Certified Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers and Residencies.

Idaho Health Careers will support vacancy postings for the following clinician types:

- Family Medicine Physicians
- OB-Gyn Physicians
- Psychiatrists
- Physician Assistants
- Certified Nurse Midwives
- Internal Medicine Physicians
- Pediatricians
- Clinical Psychologists
- Nurse Practitioners
- Dentists

Entities which meet the above criteria are invited to post vacancies for allowable clinician types. If you decide to post an opportunity in *Idaho Health Careers*, you will be responsible for the content of the posting, assuring that the information is accurate and contemporary, maintaining contact with the State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care with regard to your posting(s), and providing timely follow-up and communication with any candidate that is provided you through this service. You may access *Idaho Health Careers* to post your opportunity by going to www.IdahoHealthCareers.org. If you need assistance or have any questions, please feel free to contact the State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care at (208) 334-0669 or RuralHealth@dhw.idaho.gov.

NATIONAL—SAVE THE DATES

- **5th Annual NDNQI Conference, January 26-28, 2011, Miami, FL**
Heating Up Nursing Quality. Build valuable relationships with other attendees and find opportunities to preview the latest research as it relates to addressing organizational performance to improve patient outcomes. For further information: www.NDNQIconference.org
- **2011 Health Care Forecast Conference, February 24-25, 2011, sponsored by UC Irvine/The Paul Merage School of Business. “Health Politics of Health Care Reform Under a New Congress”**
Keynote Speaker Norm Ornstein, returns for his 14th year in a row to give his inside-the-beltway insights on the outlook for health care reform now that the House of Representatives has a Republican majority. For more information contact Margaret Wong at 949-824-8474 or mwong@uci.edu. For registration form, please go to merage.uci.edu/go/hcc
- **American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) Conference: “New Relevance in Neuroscience Nursing”, March 19-21, Kansas City, MO.**
Save \$100 if you register before 2/25/11. Contact <http://www.aann.org>

REGIONAL—SAVE THE DATES

- **Retrofitting for Reform - Critical Access Hospital Conference, March 29, 2011, Spokane, WA - Red Lion at the Park**
Plan to join your CAH colleagues at this one day conference designed specifically for CAH administrators, staff, clinicians and board members. Experts will present on quality/performance improvement, finance, CMS and more. Look for schedule and registration online the end of January: <http://extension.wsu.edu/ahec> **Conference Scholarships Available**
- **28th Annual Primary Care Update, April 29, 2011, Spokane, WA—Red Lion at the Park**
An opportunity for physicians and other health professionals to participate in educational sessions and workshops designed for the primary care practitioner in mind. Attendee brochure and online registration available the beginning of February at <http://extension.wsu.edu/ahec>

STATE OF IDAHO—SAVE THE DATES

- **The Oncology Nursing Society Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Course, February 10-11, 2011, St. Luke's Anderson Center, Boise, ID**
The Oncology Nursing Society's Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Course provides a comprehensive review of the knowledge needed to administer cytotoxic and biotherapeutic agents. **Registration Deadline is January 14, 2011, no exceptions.** For additional information, please contact Linda Penwarden @ 208-381-4012 or penwardl@slhs.org
- **9th Annual Idaho WWAMI Mini Medical School. This year's topic "The Immune System". February 2011, St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, McCleary Auditorium, Boise, ID**
The program will run four consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm from 2/2 through 2/23. Level is suitable for general public's understanding. All sessions will be videotaped and posted on the University of Idaho website. Contact: 364-4546 or clauhass@uw.edu.
- **Council of Nurse Educators, Annual Conference, April 6-7, 2011, Lewiston, ID**
Contact: www.nurseleaders.org for more information.
- **Idaho Association for Physician Assistants, April 7-9, 2011, Sun Valley, ID**
Save the date to join us in Sun Valley April 7 - 9, 2011 for IAPA's Annual CME conference. Ski, learn, relax and meet other PAs from Idaho and around the region. Contact: Erin oneill@idmed.org or Molly mollysteckel@gmail.com
- **"Meet the Residents". April 28, 2011 (Thursday) 5 pm to 8 pm, McCleary Center at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, ID.**
The State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, along with partners at the Idaho Family Medicine Residency Program, St. Alphonsus and the Idaho Primary Care Association, present the second annual "Meet the Residents" event. This is an opportunity for Idaho rural health organizations to meet the Idaho Family Medicine Residents. Space is limited, and registration will begin after the first of the year in 2011. For more information, please contact the Idaho SORH at: RuralHealth@dhw.idaho.gov
- **2011 Idaho HealthCare Conference, May 3, 2011, Idaho Falls, ID and May 5, 2011, Burley, ID**
The IHCC is a one day workshop for hospitals, physicians, skilled nursing facilities and their staff. If you have any questions about the conference, please contact via e-mail: Nicki Kelly @ nkelly@fchn.com, Jenni Kroon @ jkroon@bcidaho.com or Luci Cabrera @ Luciana.cabrera@idahosif.org.
- **63rd Annual Conference of the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians, May 20-21, 2011, Doubletree Riverside, Boise, ID**
For Exhibitor or Conference information contact Neva Santos at 208-323-1156 or Idahoafp@aol.com
- **Idaho Summit on Elder Abuse & Exploitation, June 17 & 18, 2011, Student Union Building, Boise State University, Boise, ID**
The two day summit will examine elder abuse and financial exploitation cases from a health care, legal, and social services perspective. Session will be broadcast to selected sites throughout the state and captured electronically for posting on websites. For more information, please contact Sara Toevs @ 208-426-5899 or email aging@boisestate.edu or visit <http://idahoeldersummit.org>

Kudos to Delta Dental of Idaho and their commitment to better oral health for all Idahoans, by featuring an excellent website <http://go.deltadentalid.com/identify/> for parents/guardians and health care providers who are interested in a child's oral health. The pictures and corresponding text can help provide guidance for dental/oral health referral. Delta Dental also offers free dental education resources for Idaho educators and health professionals. To learn more about these resources, please visit their [Community Outreach](#) pages on their website.

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Mary Barinaga, MD, WWAMI Assistant Clinical Dean, WWAMI Idaho Office for Clinical Medical Education, Boise, ID

Hand Washing is one of the most important — and easiest — ways to prevent infectious disease.

Mountain States Group
Idaho Area Health Education Center
1607 West Jefferson
Boise, Idaho 83702-5111

