



SOUTHWEST IDAHO AHEC

Students, Professionals, Community



2022 - 2024

AHEC

SCHOLAR

YEARBOOK—

INTRODUCING

Southwest Idaho Area Health Education Center's 2022-2024 Scholar Cohort

SW ID AHEC is thrilled to announce the impending graduation of AHEC Scholars from the Idaho program.

This nationally recognized initiative equips a diverse group of health profession students with 80 hours of interdisciplinary didactic training, covering interprofessional education, behavioral health integration, social determinants of health, cultural competency, practice transformation, and current/emerging health issues.

Additionally, scholars have devoted 80 hours to hands-on experiences in rural and underserved communities, fostering an interdisciplinary approach.

Alexandria Ahlm

- Pacific NW University -
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Savannah Moore

- Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine -
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Marisa Vander Feen

- Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine -
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Brandon Baldwin

- Idaho State University -
Physician Assistant, Master of Science

Amy Pelz

- Idaho State University -
Physician Assistant, Master of Science

Peyton Vasquez

- Idaho State University -
Physician Assistant, Master of Science

Mariah Guzman

- Boise State University -
Nursing, Bachelor of Science

Kelli Rich

- Idaho State University -
Doctor of Nursing Practice

Krystan Welborn

- Idaho State University -
Physician Assistant, Master of Science

Kennedy Hagen

- Idaho State University -
Physician Assistant, Master of Science

Daniel Rotante

- Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine -
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Sara Williams

- Idaho State University -
Physician Assistant, Master of Science

David Li

- Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine -
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Karen Silva

- Idaho State University -
Physician Assistant, Master of Science

Baylee Zanone

- Idaho State University -
Physician Assistant, Master of Science

Jackson Thennis

- Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine -
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine



Alexandria Ahlm

Pacific Northwest University | Osteopathy, Doctor

I was born to two Idahoan parents and spent my childhood traveling for my dad's military career. I'm a medical student at Pacific Northwest University and plan to graduate in 2026. As an AHEC Scholar, I'm committed to working as a primary care provider in a medically underserved area, ideally in Idaho! My long term goals include working at a critical access hospital, and eventually starting a free clinic in the Magic Valley. I want to work in a rural community because small towns still treat doctors like family. The AHEC Scholar program has proven the perfect opportunity to meet and work with other students who will be serving Idaho as medical professionals.

Brandon Baldwin

Idaho State University | Physician Assistant, Masters

I am originally from the small town of Palo Cedro in Northern California. I was born and raised there and have since travelled/lived/worked/studied in various west coast locations ranging from San Diego to Ashland, OR. I want to work in a rural community because I'm from a very rural area and know and understand that way of life. I really appreciate the pace and odd combination of self-reliance mixed with a long-standing sense of community and tradition. I love interacting with and taking care of tough people who expect nothing and have very little. It really is awesome to be able to provide them with a great service and know that if you do right by them, they will remember that and be there for you if you ever need them. I feel like being an AHEC Scholar armed me with some great tools to be able to go back to my small community and better serve the great people who live there.



Mariah Guzman

Boise State University | Nursing, Bachelors

I was born in Burley, ID. and have spent my childhood in Rupert, Burley, and Twin Falls, ID. I enjoy experimenting with cooking, exercising, and spending quality time with loved ones. I anticipate graduating from Boise State University's Bachelor of Science Nursing Program. Though I am choosing to maintain an open mindset to future nursing specialties and opportunities, I ultimately hope to be an integral part of expanding reach and quality of healthcare to the southern Idaho areas I call home. I want to work in a rural and/or underserved community because I personally recognize the disadvantages that underserved areas face and the detrimental effects that follow subsequently. I envision growth and understanding of behavioral/physical health with the help of fellow healthcare professionals.



Kennedy Hagen

Idaho State University | Physician Assistant, Masters

I was born and raised in Washington and moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington, where I majored in Biology and minored in English. I moved to Boise, Idaho to attend Idaho State University's Physician Assistant program in 2022 and will be graduating in 2024. In my free time, I enjoy knitting and reading. I want to work in a rural community because that is where I want to live.

David Li

Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine | Osteopathy, Doctor

I was born and raised in Houston, Texas and am a medical student at Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine. My long-term professional goal is to become a health advocate for my local community, and I want to become a leader that can create better health outcomes for the community members. In my free time, I love reading fantasy fiction, watching TV shows, and going to the gym. I want to work in a rural or underserved community because I was always drawn towards people that are different from myself. I've been privileged in many areas of life, and it's been my life goal to help others that aren't as privileged. Furthermore, I believe in the human right to fair and equitable access to quality health care.



Savannah Moore

Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine | Osteopathy, Doctor

I was born and raised in Idaho Falls, Idaho and will be graduating from the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine in the spring of 2024. I hope to match into family medicine next year and am looking forward to serving my community. I enjoy playing volleyball and spending time with my husband, Austin, and my dog, Ken. I want to work in a rural or underserved community because I see such a need for qualified health care professionals in Idaho and beyond.



Amy Pelz

Idaho State University | Physician Assistant, Masters

I'm a Physician Assistant student at Idaho State University. I grew up in Seattle, Washington. In my professional life, I'm looking forward to serving diverse communities and connecting with my patients in both Spanish and English. I look forward to building strong relationships with my patients and learn about their experiences. Outside of work, I love to get outside and run, hike, and play soccer. Someday I would like to be knowledgeable enough to identify all the native plants that grow where I live.

Kelli Rich

Idaho State University | Nursing, Doctorate

I'm from Lynndyl, Utah, a town of 130 people. My dad was a farmer and a nurse, which is where my interest in the medical field started. I am an RN, attending ISU to earn a Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP), focusing on psychiatric mental health. My goal is to work with kids and teens, mainly with mental health prevention. I currently substitute as a school nurse at West Ada School District and started a nonprofit called Committing to 16 to empower kids to wait until 16 to have social media. I am co-owner of Keystone Hospice, which serves patients and families in Ada and Canyon counties. I love traveling the world with my husband and 2 daughters. I don't actually love running, but I love how it makes me feel, so I do it a lot. I love doing medical and service missions in places I've never been and recently went to Ghana and Argentina to serve. I want to work in a rural community because rural people are my people! I know that statistically there is a gap in care for these communities. I want to help fill that gap to provide care and education to improve their health.



Daniel Rotante

Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine | Osteopathy, Doctor

I was born and raised in a small town in New Jersey but moved to Idaho to complete my DO degree from the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine. After residency, my goal is to one day open a practice in a rural community. I want to work in a rural community because I want to help improve healthcare outcomes in the communities that need it the most.



Karen Silva

Idaho State University | Physician Assistant, Masters

I was born in San Luis Potosi Mexico, raised in Rigby, Idaho. I will be graduating from the Idaho State University PA program. My long term professional goal is to be a successful PA with a great work life balance and to feel fulfilled with my career. Some hobbies of mine include drawing, painting, photography, and I love walking outside. I want to work in a rural and underserved community because I know that I can use my skills and knowledge to make a huge difference in the community, especially with Spanish speaking patients. This is one reason why I am also completing a Spanish certificate as well as my PA program.

Jackson Thennis

Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine | Osteopathy, Doctor

I was born and raised in Helena, Montana and attended college first at St. John's University followed by Montana State University. Currently, I am a DO student at Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine and will graduate in 2026. My long-term professional goals are still fairly vague, though I am looking forward to practicing medicine and working with rural and underserved populations throughout my career as a Physician. In my free time, I enjoy spending time outdoors hiking, camping, and fishing as well as watching sports and spending time with friends and family. I want to work in a rural and underserved community because these are the kinds of communities where I grew up and where I have lived and worked. I believe that the people in these communities have helped me develop into the person I am today, and I look forward to giving back to the people in these communities.



Marisa Vander Feen

Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine | Osteopathy, Doctor

I was born and raised in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I will be graduating from the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2025. Prior to attending medical school, I worked as a Clinical Research Coordinator in an oncology department and as an EMT for the local ambulance system. I live in Nampa with my husband, who works at Caldwell High School, and my cat, who I wish would get a job. I enjoy road trips and hiking, which Idaho is a perfect place to do both! Coming from the rural state of South Dakota, I always knew rural medicine would be crucial to my education and to my future career. I want to work in a rural and underserved community because these populations present a unique challenge to providing care that requires an understanding of their barriers to a healthy lifestyle, and I want to be a physician who helps address these problems.





Peyton Vasquez

Idaho State University | Physician Assistant, Masters

I was born in Twin Falls, ID and raised in Boise, ID. I am currently in Idaho State University's Physician Assistant Program and plan to stay in Idaho once I graduate to work as a PA. I enjoy playing soccer and spending time with my family and friends. I want to work in a rural or underserved community because I have a lot of family members who live in rural/underserved communities and hope to be a light for people who need care the most in these areas. I aim to decrease negative healthcare stigma within these areas while increasing awareness and patient education.

Krystan Welborn

Idaho State University | Physician Assistant, Masters

I was born and raised in McCall, Idaho. I am in the ISU PA program. My long-term goals are to finish PA school and work in a rural setting, just like the one I grew up in, to give back to those underserved communities. I grew up doing all things outdoors, so I love camping, hiking and spending time outside with my dogs and family. I want to work in a rural community because I grew up in a rural community and experienced the need for quality healthcare providers.



Sara Williams

Idaho State University | Physician Assistant, Masters

I was born and raised in Kuna, Idaho, when it was a small, rural area. I will graduate from Idaho State University in Master of Physician Assistant studies. I hope to work in a rural family practice with a strength in mental health, somewhere in Southwest to North Central Idaho. I want to work in a rural and underserved community because this is my life. I know this population because I have lived it, from growing up myself and being a parent in a small rural area.



Baylee Zanone

Idaho State University | Physician Assistant, Masters

I am a born and raised Idahoan. I am currently a PA student at the ISU Meridian PA Program, while actively completing a Graduate Certificate in Spanish for Health Professions alongside the PA curriculum to better serve the Latino patient populations. I also hold a degree in Radiographic Sciences from CSI and a degree in Health Science Studies from BSU. My experience has been working in both clinical and hospital settings as an X-Ray and CT Tech over the past 5 years performing routine diagnostic imaging as well as working alongside many PAs and Radiologists for surgical and interventional radiology procedures. I am ecstatic about becoming a PA and look forward to serving rural Idaho while fostering many patient-provider relationships and exploring the ability to experience a variety of medical specialties and patient populations throughout my career. I believe working in rural communities allows a provider to become a “jack of all trades” in managing aspects of care that would otherwise not be possible in settings with a wider variety of available services.

“You can’t do it alone. Be open to collaboration. Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you. Spend a lot of time with them and it will change your life.”

— Amy Poehler

The Southwest Idaho Area Health Education Center (SW ID AHEC), has been enhancing Idaho's healthcare workforce and community health in rural and underserved areas by partnering with educational institutions and state, regional, and national primary care proponents for 37 years. AHEC Scholars are tomorrow's healthcare champions for rural and underserved communities. Congratulations and thank you for your continued hard work and dedication in such challenging times. We know you are prepared to shine in today's team-based healthcare environment and we look forward to following along as each of you transition to your careers!



For more information about SW ID AHEC check out our website at www.idahoahhec.org

Subscribe to our [newsletter here](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)

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