



**BENTON**

Economic Partnership, Inc.

Quarterly Meeting

July 24, 2025

**Benton Economic Partnership, Inc.**  
**Quarterly Meeting Agenda**  
**July 24, 2025**

7:30 - 7:50	Breakfast & Networking
7:50 - 8:00	Introductions
8:00 - 8:10	BEP Update: Amanda Othoudt, Executive Director
8:10 - 8:25	Breakfast Sponsor Recognition: CentraCare
8:25 - 8:50	Guest Speaker: Darold Berreau from SCORE
8:50 - 9:00	Questions and Adjourn
9:00 - 10:30	Benton Economic Partnership Board Meeting (Private)



## GROWTH IN BENTON COUNTY



- *Expansions*
- *New Builds*
- *Façade Improvements*





# Introductions



BEP Quarterly Meeting  
Breakfast Provided By:  
D&L Catering



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

CentraCare Regional Campus  
St. Cloud



# BEP Quarterly Meeting Breakfast Sponsor

Centra Care

Dr. Jill Amsberry



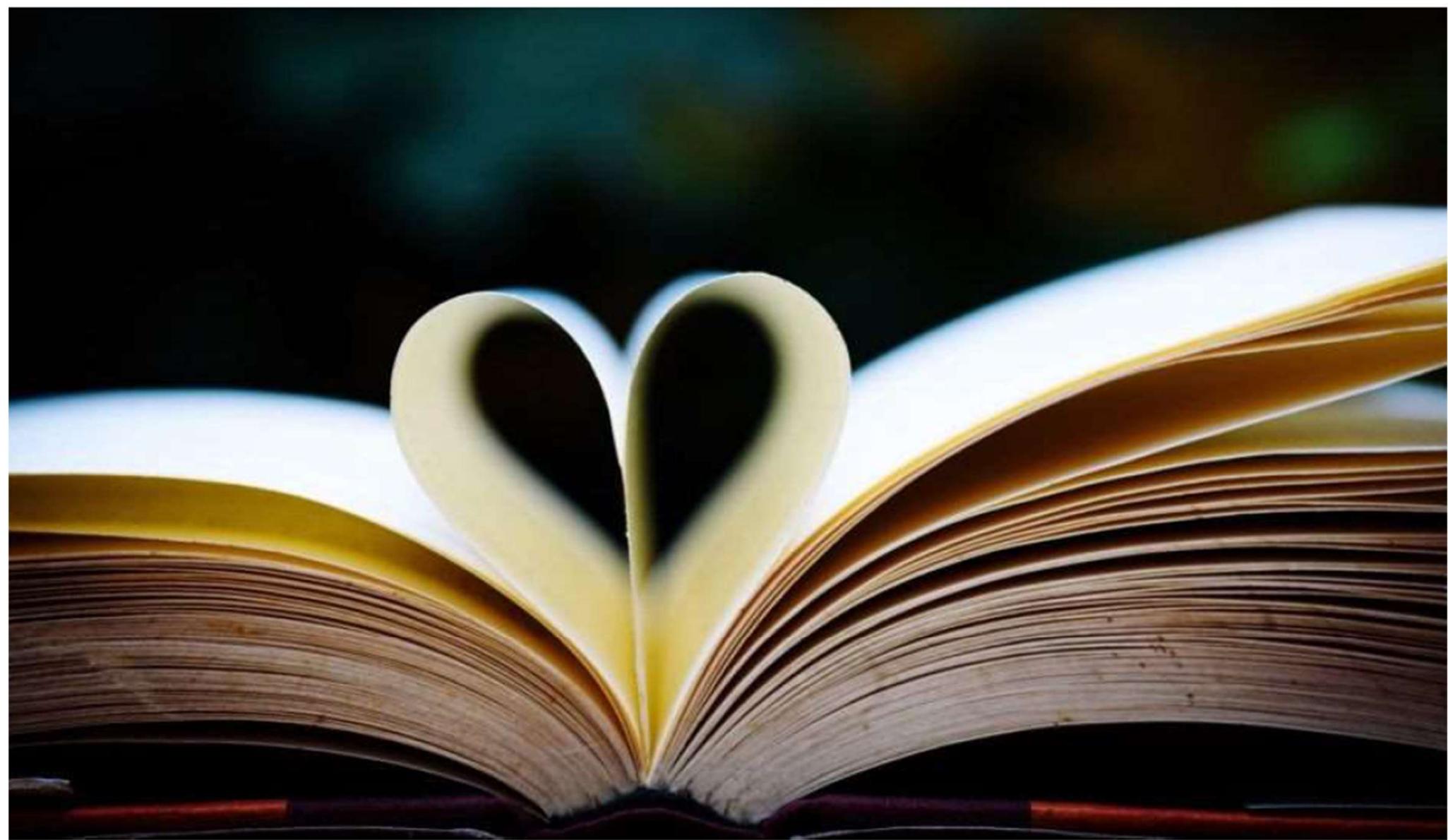
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

CentraCare Regional Campus  
St. Cloud

A partnership between the University of Minnesota and CentraCare







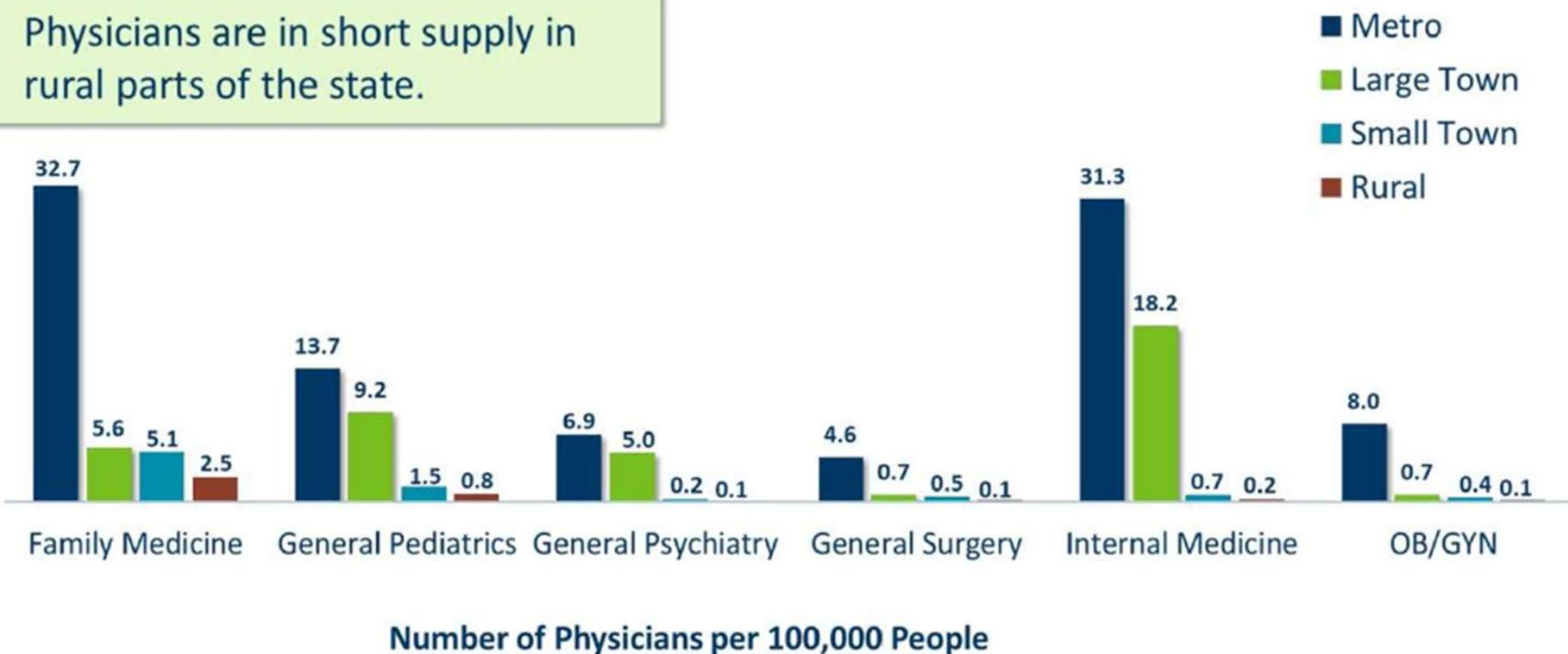
**Where you live, shouldn't determine if you live.**

## If not us, then who? If not now, then when?

-  While 20% of the U.S. population lives in rural communities, only 11% of physicians practice in such areas.
-  Only 4% of incoming medical students come from rural communities.
-  The median age of physicians practicing in rural Minnesota is 59 and one-in-three intend to leave the profession within five years.
-  The best way to attract new physicians to rural Minnesota is to train them in rural Minnesota.

## Rural areas face severe shortages of primary care physicians

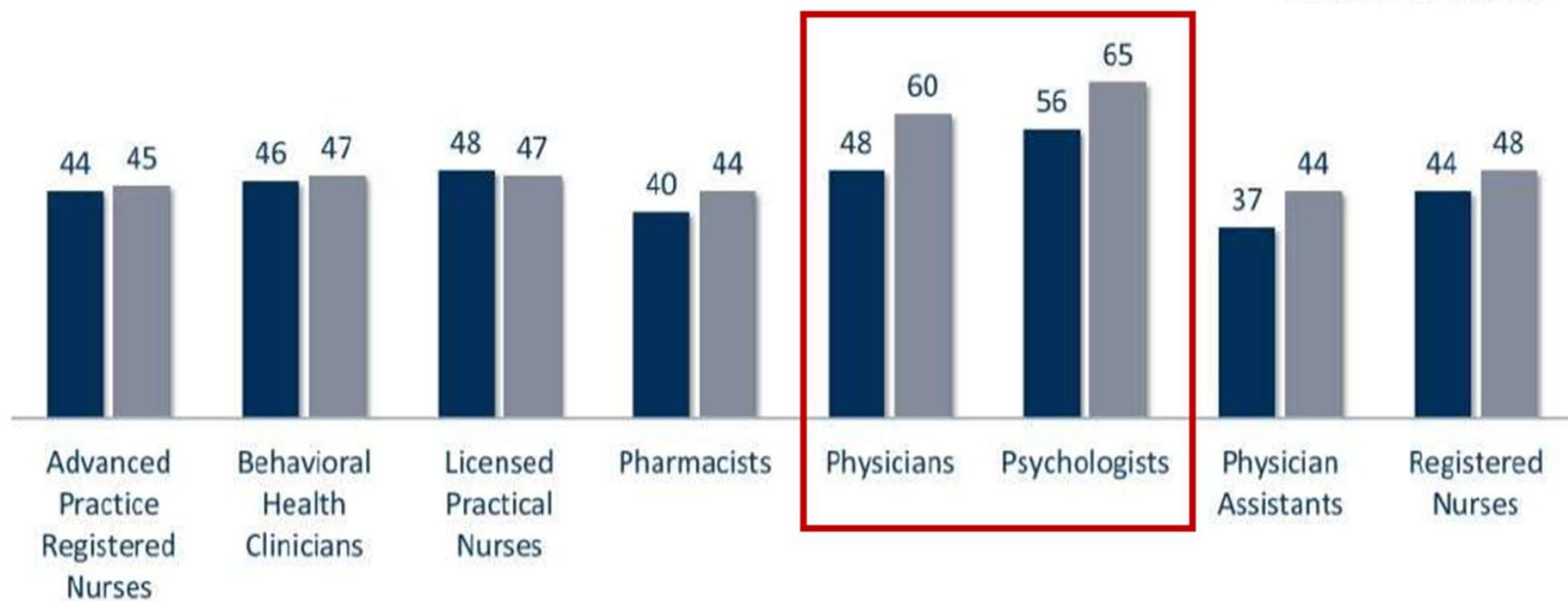
Physicians are in short supply in rural parts of the state.



The **median age** of urban providers compare to rural providers

■ Urban Providers

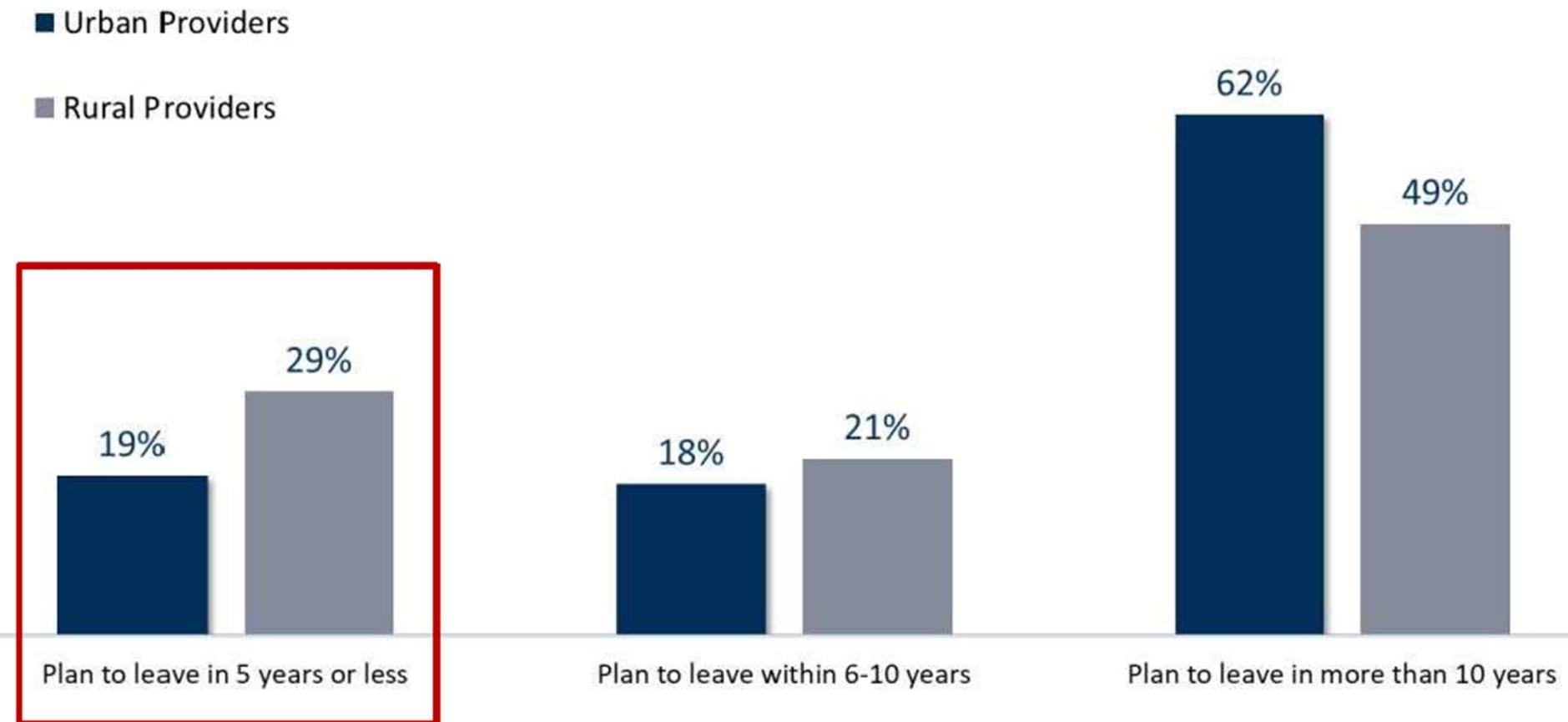
■ Rural\* Providers



Source: MDH Office of Rural Health and Primary Care analysis. Data provided by Health Licensing Boards, 2024.

\*Rural = isolated rural from Rural-Urban Commuting Area codes.

[Summary of Slide](#)



Source: MDH Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, Physician Workforce Survey, 2024.

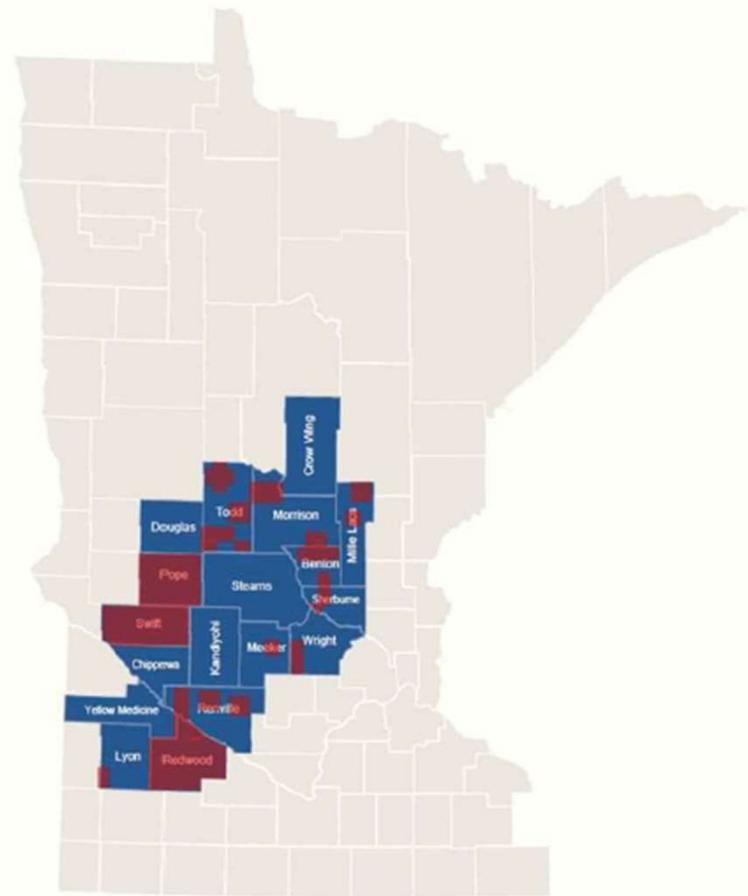
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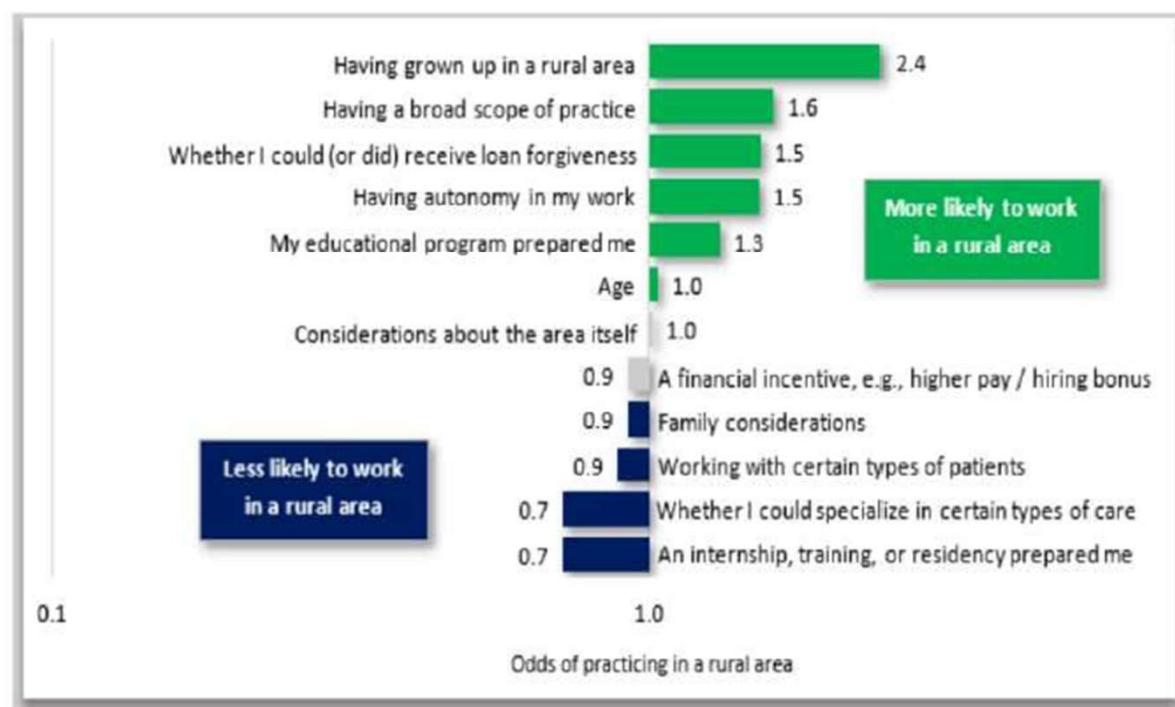
## Physician Availability in Rural MN

Of the 7,200 federally designated health professional shortage areas:

- 3 of 5 are in rural areas
- 93 are in Minnesota
- 28 are in CentraCare's Service Area



# Factors that Influence Rural Practice Choice



Data source: Analysis of data from the MDH Health Care Workforce Survey, February through December of 2022.

## Validates our approach:

- Recruit students with rural background
- Provide training in a rural environment
- Mitigate educational debt

**Make Rural Life Healthier**

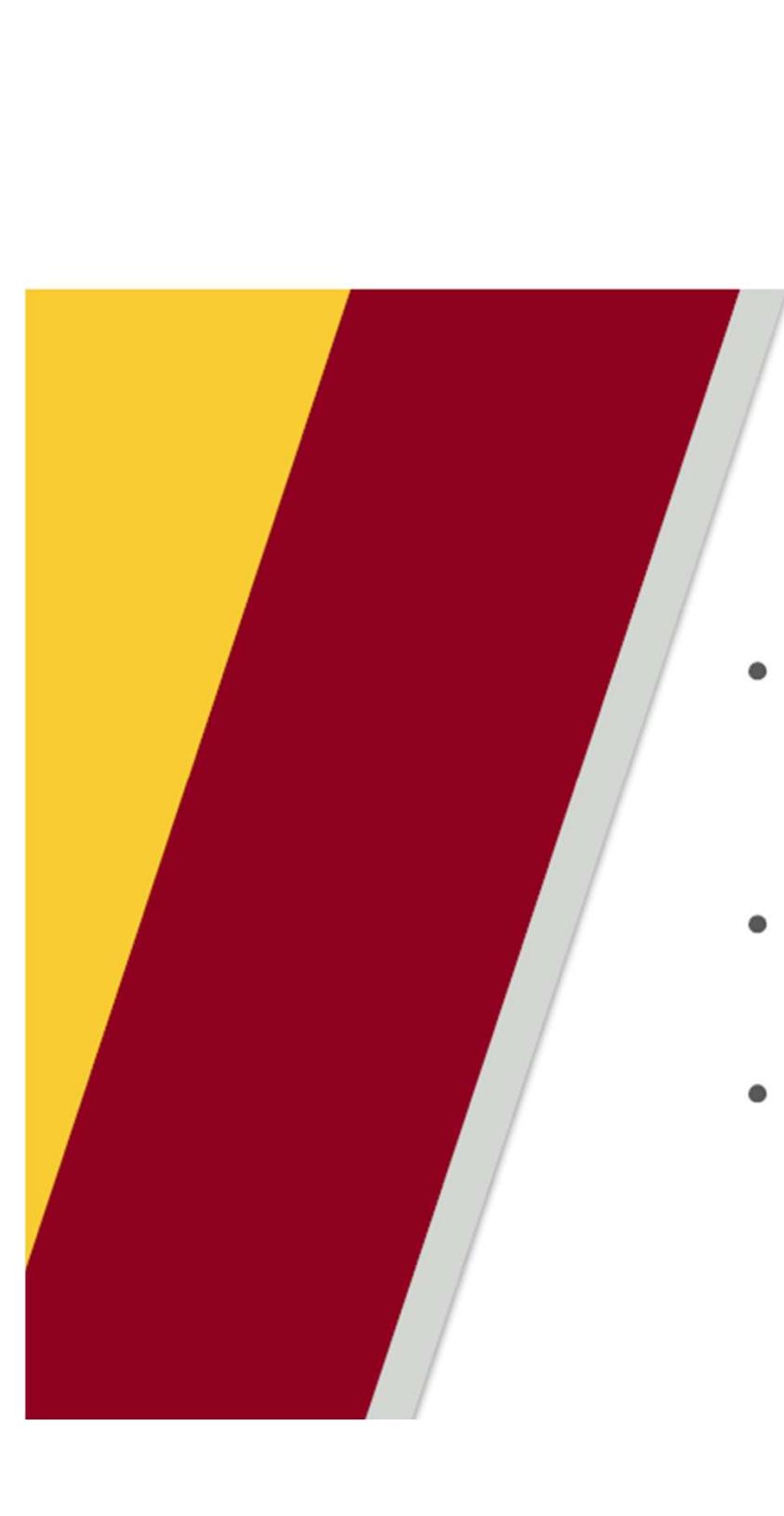
**Will it *actually* help  
our community?**





## Association of Primary Care Physician Supply With Population Mortality in the United States, 2005-2015

- Every 10 additional primary care physicians per 100,000 population was associated with a 51.5-day **increase** in life expectancy
- Social factors have greater impact on life expectancy:
  - Poverty: 148.8 day *decrease*
  - Adult smoking: 52.3 day *decrease*



## **Value of Learners to Health Systems**

- Residents play a significant role in quality improvement and patient safety
- Learners contribute to research
- Teaching hospitals are associated with improved clinical outcomes

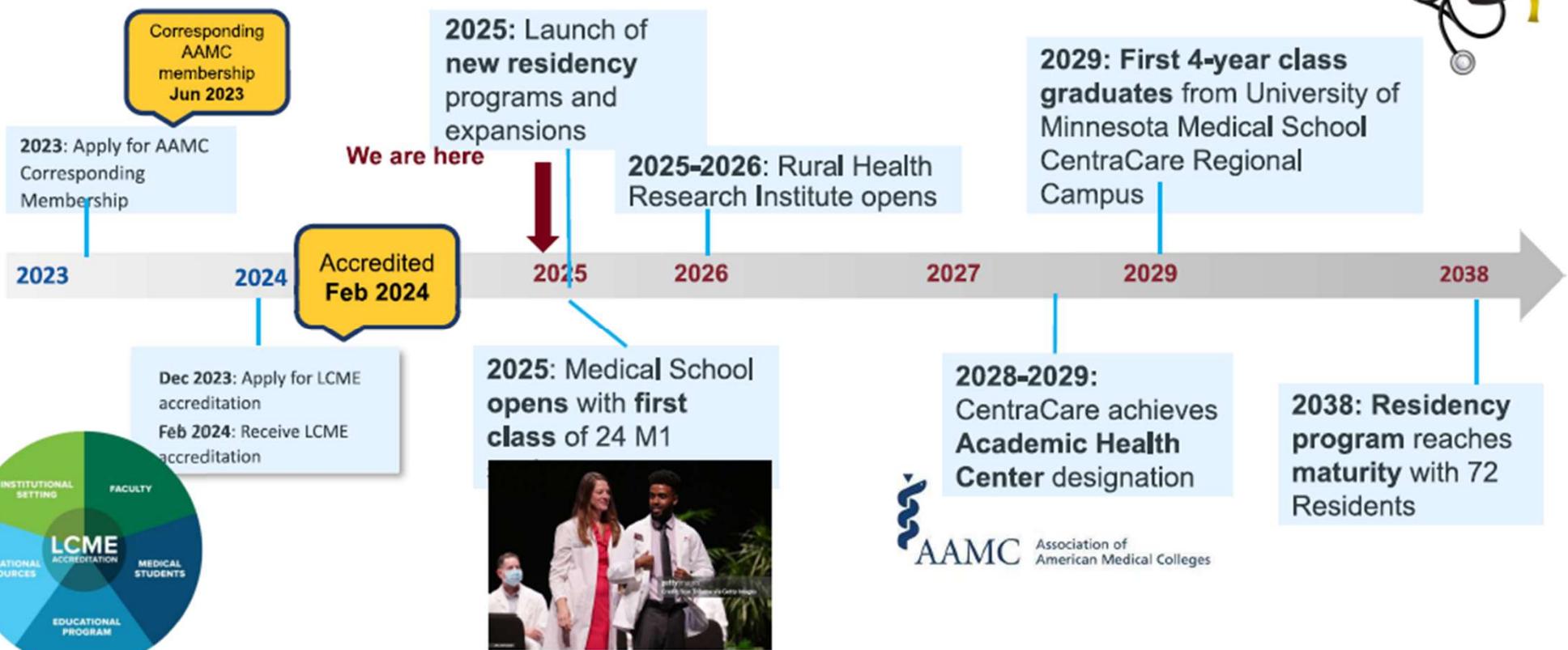


## **Economic Value of Physicians**

For every 1 practicing physician in a community:

- > 17 jobs added
- > \$1.4 million in wages and benefits
- > \$125K in state taxes

# Timeline

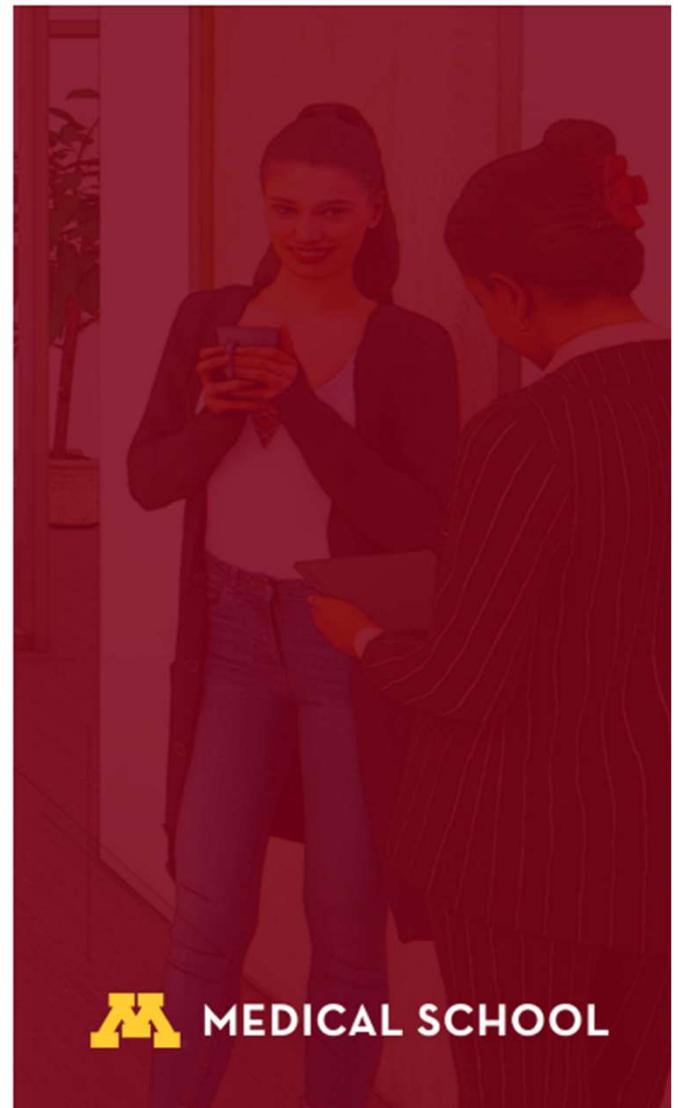


**M** MEDICAL SCHOOL

**C** CentraCare®

## Building for the Future

- **What:** A new regional campus of the University of Minnesota Medical School in St. Cloud.
- **Mission:** To train medical students interested in rural healthcare.
- **Why:** To ensure people living in rural communities continue to have access to the care they need.
- **When:** The four-year program will welcome its first class of medical students in the fall of 2025.





## Campus Snapshot

- **Class size:** 24 students admitted annually (96 students total once the program matures).
- **Location:** 1600 County Road 134, St. Cloud, MN 56303 (formerly CentraCare's Administrative Services Building).
- **Faculty:** Classes led by exemplary faculty from the University of Minnesota and CentraCare.
- **Housing:** A 96-unit housing development next to the campus will be available in the fall of 2025.

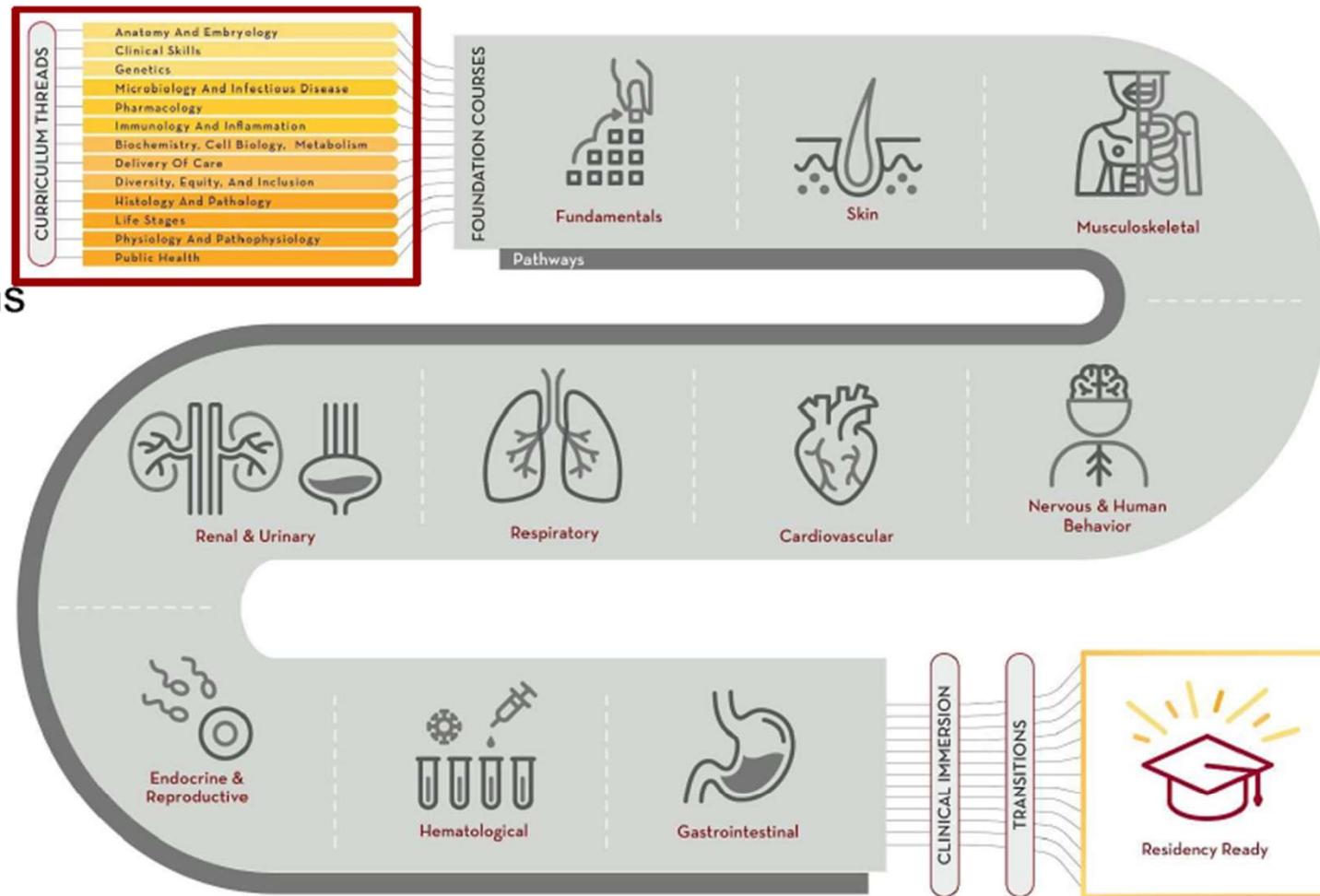


## Campus Features

- **Classrooms:** Expansive classroom spaces in the newly renovated facility.
- **Simulation suite:** Includes four simulated clinical exam rooms.
- **Medical simulation flex room:** Used for inpatient hospital, procedure, or operating room scenarios.
- **Full anatomy lab:** A newly designed space with natural light for optimal learning.
- **Wellness spaces:** Exercise areas and outdoor spaces for students.



## Foundations Phase Sequence



# CURRICULUM THREADS

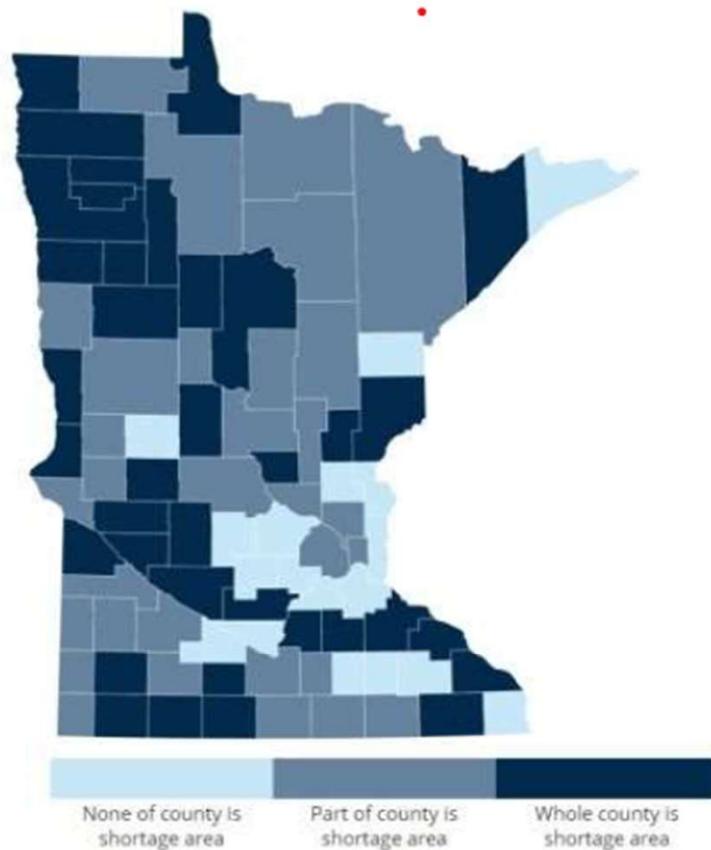
- Anatomy And Embryology
- Clinical Skills
- Genetics
- Microbiology And Infectious Disease
- Pharmacology
- Immunology And Inflammation
- Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Metabolism
- Delivery Of Care
- Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion
- Histology And Pathology
- Life Stages
- Physiology And Pathophysiology
- Public Health

## Students

- **Applications:** More than 200 students named the CentraCare Regional Campus as their #1 choice.
- **Selection process:** All 24 students have been selected for the inaugural class.
- **Orientation week:** August 18-21, 2025
- **White coat ceremony:** August 21, 2025



## Health Care Professional Shortage Areas Primary Care



## Inaugural Class

- Retained all 24 students offered admission
- Every student is a Minnesota resident with demonstrated commitment to rural health
- Some recent graduates of local institutions
- Several non-traditional students with exciting background experiences

**M**  
**MEDICAL SCHOOL**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

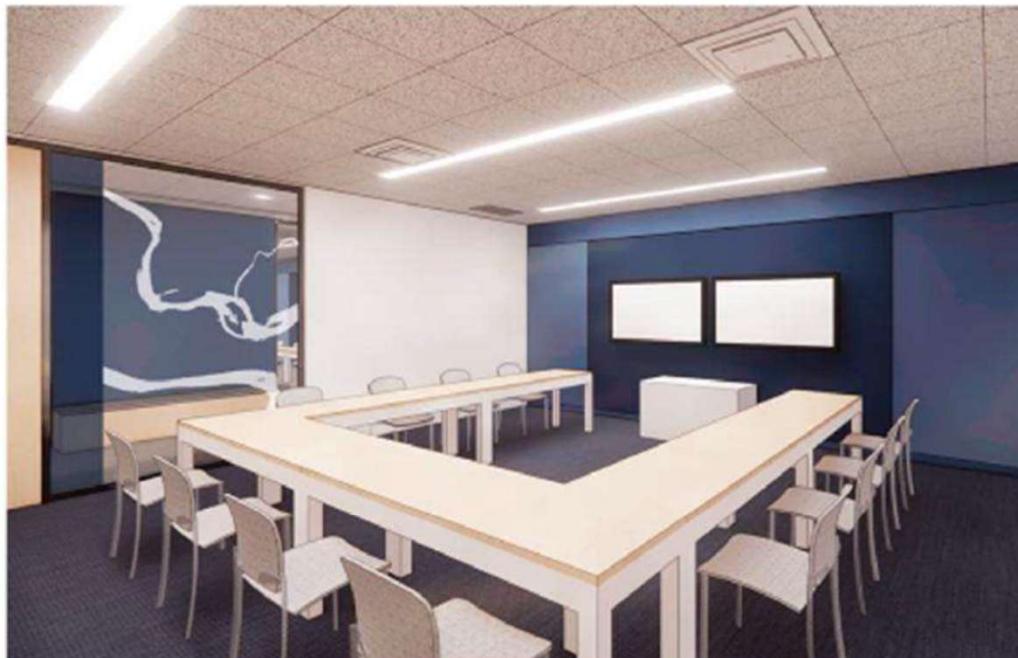
CentraCare Regional Campus  
St. Cloud



**Medical School Campus**



SIM SEMINAR



TYPICAL EXAM ROOM











# The Residence at the Plaza





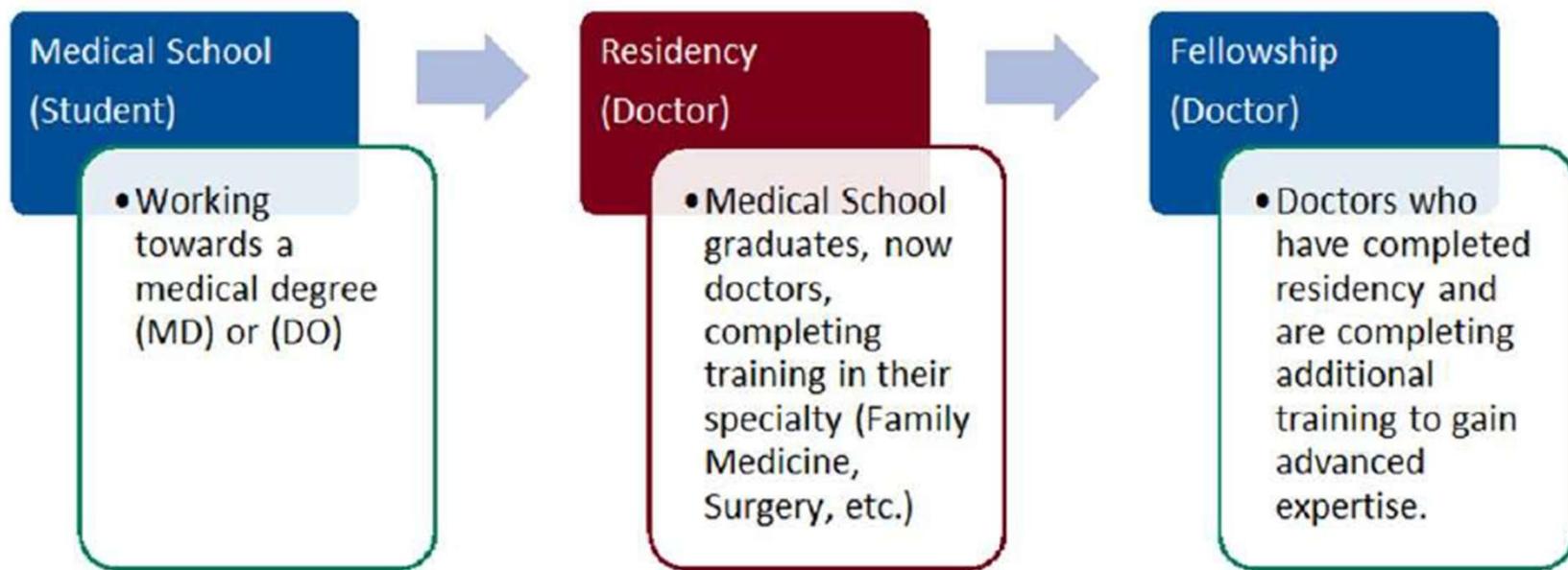






# Graduate Medical Education

Becoming a physician takes multiple steps:



## Track Record of Success

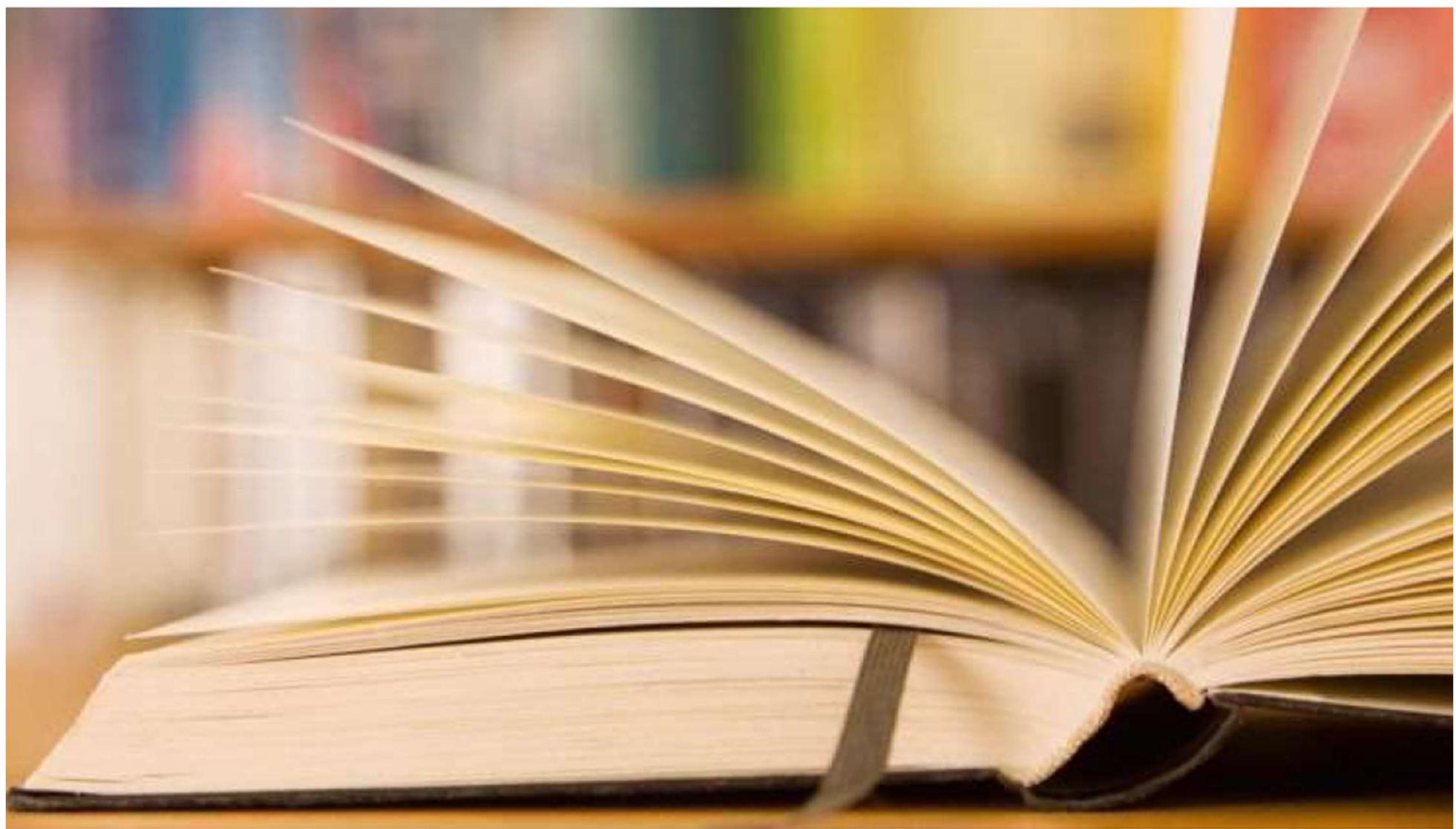
- CentraCare and the University of Minnesota Medical School have partnered on the St. Cloud Family Medicine Residency for nearly 30 years.
- 118 family medicine physicians graduated
- 82% practicing in Minnesota
- 77% practicing outside the 7-county metro
- 51% practicing in communities <25,000 people



# Residency Training Expansion

Physicians often stay where they train so rural training means rural doctors.

<u><a href="#">Family Medicine</a></u> New Willmar program 2 residents annually First class starting 7/2025!	<u><a href="#">Pediatrics</a></u> Primary care/rural track 2 residents annually Starting 7/2027	<u><a href="#">Psychiatry</a></u> Rural track 2 residents annually Starting 7/2027	<u><a href="#">Internal Medicine</a></u> Rural primary care track 3 residents annually Start TBD	<u><a href="#">General Surgery</a></u> Rural track 1 resident annually Starting 7/2027	<u><a href="#">Obstetrics and Gynecology</a></u> Rural rotations & advanced family medicine training Start TBD
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# BEP Quarterly Meeting Keynote Speaker

Darold Berreau





| Twin Cities

## Empowering Entrepreneurs with SCORE

*Presented by: Darold Berreau  
Certified SCORE Mentor  
Twin Cities Chapter*

Go to [twincities.score.org](http://twincities.score.org)



# About **SCORE**

- 60 years of volunteer service
- Over **17 million** entrepreneurs supported
- National Non-Profit backed by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
- **Nationwide network** – 10,000 + expert volunteers across all 50 U.S. states

# Why Entrepreneurship Matters

- In 2024: **5.2. Million** new business applications were filed (U.S. Census Bureau)
- However –
  - **20% fail in year one**
  - **50% fail within five years**

# SCORE's Mission

- Help small businesses **launch, grow, and thrive**
- Provide **FREE** mentoring and training
- **Note:** starting the end of June (2025), **SCORE** will be charging \$ 25 for National webinars, with the exception of SCORE's sponsored webinars

# Mentorship Makes a Difference

- Entrepreneurs provided **3 +** hours of mentoring see:
  - Higher revenues
  - Increased growth
  - 3x more likely to stay in business
- Mentors offer **advice, best practices and expert feedback**

# The Power of SCORE Mentors

- Experienced business professionals
- One-on-One partnerships
- Support through every stage

# Flexible, Professional Mentoring

- In-person, virtual or email
- Local or national experts
- Co-Mentoring teams available

# Business Education Resources

- Webinars (live and recorded) workshops
- Interactive online courses
- Business planning templates, with Mentor review and feedback
- Content tailored to the business **stage, industry, and needs**

# The SCORE Startup Roadmap

- Step-by-Step guidance for new businesses
- Stage-based content: Start – Grow – Transition
- Mentoring tips included throughout

# Take the first step

- **SCORE is for every entrepreneur and small business owner**
- **Request your mentor today at: [www.score.org](http://www.score.org)**
- It's **FREE**, confidential and effective

# QUESTIONS



# Partnerships



# Questions

Thank you for attending

Private BEP Board Meeting to Follow



Amanda Othoudt, EDFP  
Executive Director  
Phone: 320-968-6197



Pamela Vizenor  
Executive Assistant  
Phone: 320-818-1111

Save the Date: Quarterly Meeting  
October 24, 2025