

SUMMER 2016



*The recognized advocate for rural health issues in Idaho*

Quarterly Newsletter

The Mission of the Idaho Rural Health Association is to provide leadership on issues related to rural health in Idaho through advocacy, communication, and education.



**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:**

- Quarterly newsletter focused on IRHA's interests
- Networking opportunities
- One time introductory subscription to NRHA's magazine Rural Roads
- NRHA's Action Alerts
- NRHA's Media Alerts
- Discounted fees to attend IRHA conferences and other events
- Rural Health Forums
- NRHA membership discount

## Idaho Rural Health Association Update

The Idaho Rural Health Association would like to welcome Student Board Member, Wes Rowlette



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Student Board Members**

Catherine Doyle, MD  
Family Medicine Residency of Idaho

Wes Rowlette  
Boise State University

Wes currently lives in Meridian with his wife and three children, and is enjoying earning his bachelor's degree at BSU. He will be applying for Physician Assistant School next summer, and is excited to start helping patients be their best selves one person at a time. He also possesses a strong desire to find ways to facilitate health awareness on a larger scale than one on one in a clinic. IRHA has introduced him to a way that he can make a more broad impact, while still pursuing his intended degree. Through the recruitment tools he is helping to create for IRHA, and an action based approach, he is confident that the student chapter will be able to gather the man power needed to facilitate lasting change and discernible improvements for our neighbors in the rural communities of Idaho.

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**Our Vision is to be the recognized advocate for rural health**

## NRHA Idaho Site Visit

Representatives from the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) and the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) participated in a joint site visit to rural programs in Idaho, August 8-9, 2016. The purpose of this effort was to discuss and observe the impact and implementation of rural policies and programs in the state. The tour included an initial day of presentations to provide background and updates on current models and policies that are in effect. Mary Sheridan, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Rural Health & Primary Care at the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare and Dr. David Schmitz, Chief Rural Officer, Rural Training Track Program Director, and Chief Quality Officer at the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho (FMRI) in Boise assisted with the coordination of the site visit. Presentations included: an overview from Dr. Ted Epperly, President and CEO of FMRI; a discussion from representatives of the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare on the Statewide Healthcare Innovation Plan (SHIP); graduate medical education; rural health initiatives and public perspectives; reimbursement; rural health workforce; quality, payment and an opioid initiative from a Critical Access Hospital perspective and an update from Executive Director, Shannon Schmitz with the Idaho State Rural Health Association. The second day included site visits to the Twin Falls Rural Training Track; the Jerome Rural Training Track; the Shoshone Family Medical Center and Lost Rivers medical Center in Arco.

The discussions provided an important perspective for both the NRHA and the FORHP leadership to better understand how rural health policies and programs are unfolding in rural areas. Idaho is known for having a unique collaboration between federal, state and local entities that have led to successful funding streams for improving access to health in rural areas. The opportunity to see some of these programs firsthand reaffirmed the commitment of the NRHA to continue to highlight what is working in rural America that needs to be addressed to ensure that these programs are sustained long term. As the NRHA also provides funding through subawards to some of the Rural Training Track Programs in the state as well as technical assistance to the Idaho State Rural Health Association through a cooperative agreement from the FORHP, the listening sessions and the visits made for a meaningful education of how these successful collaborations might inform future policies and innovation.



### STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (SLRP)

EXPANDED OPPORTUNITY! FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Idaho Bureau of Rural Health & Primary Care invites you to explore this new opportunity for clinician and physician loan repayment. SLRP is a federal grant created to improve healthcare access in Health Professional Shortage Areas. Award amounts range from \$5,000-\$23,000 per year, depending on discipline and matching employer contributions.

<b>Eligible disciplines include:</b> • MD • DO • NP • CNM • PA • DDS/DMO • RN (NEW) • LCSW • Psychologist • Psychiatrist • Pharmacist • RDH	<b>Eligible facilities must:</b> • Be a nonprofit or public entity located in an Idaho Health Professional Shortage Area • Provide a sliding fee scale for low income and uninsured patients • Must accept Medicare and Medicaid • Provide 1:1 matching loan repayment funds
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Apply Now!  
 Visit: [www.ruralhealth.idaho.gov](http://www.ruralhealth.idaho.gov)  
 Questions? Email: [ruralhealth@idaho.gov](mailto:ruralhealth@idaho.gov)  
 Call: (208) 334-0669

### Idaho CAH - RHC - Free Medical Clinic Annual Conference

Don't miss this opportunity for Idaho's Critical Access Hospitals (CAH), Rural Health Clinics (RHC) and Free Medical Clinics!

Travel and lodging support available for Idaho participants.

**Click Here to Register!**  
 November 10, 2016 - The Riverside Hotel in Boise

The Bureau of Rural Health & Primary Care invites you to take advantage of this annual opportunity to network with peers and obtain advice from experts in the healthcare industry!

- **CAHS:** Benchmarking and Building MBQIP
- **RHCs:** Managing, Reporting and Updating
- **Free Medical Clinics:** Advocacy, Partnership and Using Data

Questions or more information?  
[www.ruralhealth.dhw.idaho.gov](http://www.ruralhealth.dhw.idaho.gov) or call 208-334-0669

## 2016 National Rural Health Day 4th Annual Idaho Photo Contest

The Idaho Rural Health Association (IRHA) announces the fourth annual Idaho Rural Health Day Photo Contest. National Rural Health Day is an initiative to showcase rural America and unique efforts to address rural healthcare needs. This photo contest is a creative opportunity to celebrate the power of rural and visually share what rural health in your Idaho community means to you. These photographs will be showcased on the IRHA and Bureau of Rural Health & Primary Care websites.

### Contest Deadline and Eligibility

The deadline for photo submission is **Monday, November 14th, 2016 at 5pm MT**. More than one person in an organization can submit a photo, however, only one photo can be submitted per person. The photo must convey the concept of rural health in Idaho at a glance.

### Judging

A Review Committee will select a winner prior to November 17th, 2016. Photos will be judged based on creativity, originality, photo quality, and how well the photo communicates the concept of rural health in Idaho. The most competitive submissions will demonstrate the unique efforts of rural healthcare in Idaho without the need for lengthy captions.

### Submitting Photos

To submit a photo, send a high resolution version of the photo in a .jpg file format (maximum 2 MB) to [ruralhealth@idhw.idaho.gov](mailto:ruralhealth@idhw.idaho.gov). With the photo, include the location, a caption, and any additional information you feel is relevant. In addition, please include your name, e-mail address, and phone number. By submitting the photo, you adhere to the information listed in the "use of copyrighted materials" section below.

### Use of copyrighted materials

The photo must have been captured by the individual submitting to the contest. Images submitted must be royalty-free. Only photos meeting these requirements will be eligible for prizes and qualify for the National Rural Health Day Idaho Photo Contest. The IRHA and the Bureau of Rural Health & Primary Care will use the photos submitted to the contest on their websites and in their publications.

### Prizes

The grand prize for the National Rural Health Day Photo Contest is a **\$50 Gift Card**. Second place will receive a **\$25 Gift Card**. Contest winners will be notified on National Rural Health Day, Thursday, November 17th and publicized on the IRHA and the Bureau of Rural Health & Primary Care websites.

Learn more about National Rural Health Day by visiting: [https://nosorb.org/calendar\\_events/nrhd/](https://nosorb.org/calendar_events/nrhd/)

### Questions

Contact Ariel Foster at the Bureau of Rural Health & Primary Care for additional information at (208) 332-7944 or [fosterar@idhw.idaho.gov](mailto:fosterar@idhw.idaho.gov).



## Idaho National Rural Health Day Photo Contest Winners



2014 Winner



2015 Winner



## Join Us Today!

By joining IRHA you become part of nearly 100 professional and organizational members statewide who are working to improve the health and quality of life of rural Idahoans.

Members have come to rely on IRHA to be the voice for rural communities through advocacy, information exchange and collaboration.

IRHA has moved to a new web-based management system. Now you can join conveniently online.

Go to [www.idahorha.org](http://www.idahorha.org) to register or renew your membership.

**Annual Dues:**  
Individual \$25

Organization \$100  
(Up to 5 members)

Student \$15

## LET US KNOW!

Why is rural health important to you?

What is your passion in rural health?

We include your response in the next newsletter.

Send to Shannon at [idahorha@gmail.com](mailto:idahorha@gmail.com)

## DON'T FORGET TO...

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