



Q&A with **Dr. Joanna Bailey** *Former Rural Scholar*

What made you choose the Rural Scholars Program?

I knew that I wanted to practice in family medicine and stay in WV. I already knew that the family medicine program at WVU was a good fit for me, so I jumped right in! I was excited to focus more on primary care during my 4th year of medical school. With the program I was able to further explore my passion of working with homeless patients through my rural scholars rotations.

What do you think is a benefit of the program?

I really enjoyed the ability to sit back and enjoy my 4th year of medical school without having to rush around and worry about getting multiple residency interviews and the match. I already knew that I would be doing residency, so I was able to focus on completing electives that would help me become a better family doctor.

What's did you enjoy most about the program?

The most rewarding part of doing the Rural Scholars program for me has been the lasting connection that I have had to the Department of Family Medicine at WVU. By deciding that I would join the program in the 3rd year of medical school, I had another year and a half to build relationships within the department. Even after I left WVU to practice in a rural setting, I have maintained those connections; working with both Rural Scholars and Rural Track medical students in the field.

If you had to sum up your experience in a few words what would they be?

I would say that the Rural Scholars program helped me realize my goals and guided me into the very rewarding Family Medicine practice that I enjoy today.

What recommendation would you give to someone interested in this program?

Do it! If you know that you love Family Medicine, what do you have to lose? This is a fantastic program to allow you to fully explore what Family Medicine means for you and move your career forward.

