



Q&A with **Dr. Nathaniel Linger**

Current Rural Scholar

Former Rural Track Student

What made you choose the Rural Scholars Program? I chose the rural track/rural scholars program because I knew that I wanted to practice in a rural setting. Although I wasn't well versed in clinical medicine when joining the Rural Scholars program, I did know that practicing in a rural area would bring unique opportunities and challenges. Even before I started my first year of medical school, the program had me out shadowing in a rural community clinic which was an invaluable experience to kick-off my career in medicine.

What do you think is a benefit of the program? Without question the experience and exposure to different community practices is the most important benefit that this program has offered me. It allowed me to reach out beyond our practice in Morgantown and have a glimpse into what life would be like after medical school and residency. It also led to a job opportunity that stemmed from a clinic where I did most of my work/shadowing as a student and resident.

What's did you enjoy most about the program? I enjoyed the variety that the program added to my education. It is easy to get into a comfort zone and this program challenged me to do more out-of-the-box thinking to approach many common problems.

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

Professionally enriching. This a unique opportunity designed to provide an advantage to those who are interested in rural practice.

What recommendation would you give to someone interested in this program? Sign up, do not let the name of the program mislead you! Even if you do not end up in a rural practice, you will learn skills that will be applicable to your own practice that you would otherwise miss out on.