National Rural Health Association

Rural Medical Education Conference
May 19, 2026 – San Diego, CA
Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego
"Transforming Training: What's Coming down the Track?"

8 - 8:15 a.m.
Welcome
Alan Morgan, NRHA, CEO

8:15 - 9:15 a.m.
Lessons learned from establishing an Accelerated Medical Pathway Program
Lisa Dodson, MD, Medical College of Wisconsin -Central Wisconsin, Campus Dean

9:15 - 10:15 a.m.
Accelerated Medical Pathways – A Program's Perspective
*Jonathan Cartsonis, MD**, University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix, Director, Rural Health Professions Program*
David Schmitz, MD, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Professor and Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine

Hear from both undergraduate and graduate medical programs currently considering or undergoing the establishment of an accelerated medical track. We will discuss the admissions, curriculum, financial, and regulatory challenges associated with the design of an accelerated medical pathway program.

10:15 - 10:30 a.m.
Break

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
NRHA Government Affairs Update
Carrie Cochran-McClain, National Rural Health Association, Chief Policy Officer

Hear an update on the current legislative and regulatory issues affecting rural health workforce and medical training programs, including, the rollout of the Rural Health Transformation Funds, the changes to the Federal student loan program, and the US visa program.

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Networking Lunch

1:30 - 2:45 p.m.
2026 Tour of Rural Medical Education

RME students, staff and/or faculty will discuss innovations in their rural medical education programs.

2:45-3:00 p.m.
Break

3:00 – 4:15 p.m.
Student Presentation

4:15-4:45 p.m.
RME Business Meeting

RME members will conduct the annual business meeting. All are welcomed to attend.

4:45-5 p.m.
Closing Remarks

Thank you for your attendance and your continued support of NRHA and the RME Conference!
Join us next year in New Orleans, LA on May 18, 2027!