

TWENTY-SIX PHYSICIANS ASSISTANTS GRADUATE FROM RMC AUG. 26

For more information: Robert Wilmouth, M.D.
Rocky Mountain College Program Director, Physician Assistant Program
Phone: (406) 657-1192
Email: bob.wilmouth@rocky.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – With a mission to provide quality medical services to underserved and rural populations, 26 students of the Rocky Mountain College Masters of Physician Assistant Studies Program graduated during the annual White Coat Ceremony, August 26, 2010, at 1 p.m., on the Rocky Mountain College Green (south of the Bair Family Student Center).

The ceremony is named for when the graduates don their white coats, signifying they are now officially Physician Assistants.

The welcome and introductions were presented by Bob Wilmouth, M.D., program director; invocation by Kristi Foster, RMC chaplain; remarks by RMC President Michael Mace; and the speaker for the 2010 class was Amanda Langemo.

The ceremony was followed with a reception in Fraley Lounge in the Bair Family Student Center.

The RMC program is dedicated to the education and training of Physician Assistants who will provide health care that is safe, current, evidence-based, and specifically targeted to primary care in rural areas, Dr. Wilmouth said.

“The program is committed to providing high quality education with patient safety as the top priority,” Dr. Wilmouth stated. “We emphasize personal service excellence. Our students will lead the charge in it, as patient safety officers.”

Emphasizing that focus is that the RMC program is the only program in the U.S. participating in a national patient safety program, called “Open School,” which is sponsored by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

The IHI Open School for Health Professions is an inter-professional educational community that gives students the skills to become change agents in health care improvement, Dr. Wilmouth explained.

“We’re talking about skills like quality improvement, patient safety, teamwork, leadership, and patient-centered care. Employers are looking for these skills, and patients expect providers to have them. But most schools barely touch on these topics,” according to Don Berwick, Institute for Healthcare Improvement president and CEO.

The MPAS is a 26-month program that trains highly skilled medical professionals. The RMC program holds active accreditation from the ARC-PA (Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant).

Faculty includes three PA-C's, three Ph.D.'s, and four MD's with over 100 years of both educational and clinical experience.

The students who graduated from the program Aug. 26 include:

Travis Allen: Billings, Mont.
Benjamin Baird: Smithfield, Utah
Jonathan Baird: Salt Lake City, Utah
Joseph Bailey: Gig Harbor Wash.
Joshua Bezecny: Boulder, Colo.
Hans Bone: Bozeman, Mont.
Melanie Cox: Billings, Mont.
Max Dangerfield: Billings, Mont.
Cameron Dortch: Saratoga Springs, Utah
Jeffrey Ernst: Billings, Mont.
Kimberly Ferguson: Billings, Mont.
Justin Gifford: Billings, Mont.
Wade Holden: Yakima, Wash.
Jeffrey Hudson: Twin Falls, Ida.
Lindsay MacCatherine: Billings, Mont.
Amanda Langemo: Salt Lake City, Utah
Jennifer Owen: Oceano, Utah
Merrick Reynolds: Twin Falls, Ida.
Cherokee Rova: Arlee, Mont.
Saeed Safaee: (Iran) Billings, Mont
Mike Schallock: Billings, Mont.
Devin Tracy: North Ogden, Utah
Ashley Wach: Layton, Utah
Travis Weis: Sikeston, Miss.
Shelly Willes: Alpine, Utah
Stephanie Winter: Great Falls, Mont.

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