STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE): A Partnership with Eastern Washington

INFORMATION

For Information Only.

BACKGROUND

Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE) is a special educational track of the University of Washington School of Dentistry. RIDE was developed to improve access to dental care in Washington by increasing the number of dentists practicing in rural and/or underserved areas of the State and region.

RIDE is a partnership with Eastern Washington University (EWU), the UW School of Medicine's WWAMI program, federally-qualified community health centers in Eastern Washington and the Spokane District Dental Society.

RIDE was funded by the Washington State Legislature in 2007 along with the WWAMI Spokane program. The first cohort of eight RIDE students graduated in 2012.

The RIDE Educational Model

Like WWAMI, RIDE partners with regional universities and community health professionals to give students an integrated experience in Eastern Washington. This increases their likelihood of practicing in rural and/or underserved communities in Eastern Washington and the region. RIDE students currently spend 40% of their dental school time in Eastern Washington. For the future, the goal is to expand the number of RIDE students and increase the length of time students spend in Spokane.

EWU hosts RIDE at its School of Dental Hygiene with additional faculty drawn from its Biology Department. RIDE integrates with the WWAMI curriculum whenever possible. Community Health Center clinics host RIDE students for 4-6 months during which time students deliver a significant amount of care to patients in rural/underserved sites under supervision. These experiences increase students’ familiarity with and comfort providing dental care to rural and underserved populations, while exposing them to practice opportunities in these communities.
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The Spokane District Dental Society hosts RIDE students at their monthly meetings and individual members have been mentors to RIDE students. Other members have served as RIDE instructors and have been strong advocates for RIDE.

In order to create instructional efficiencies, RIDE hosts a Teledentistry network that supports distance learning with videoconferencing and other functions. Developed initially with both state and federal funds, this network enables any and/or all sites and students to be connected at the same time. It also supports preceptor calibration/CE, consultation and other academic functions.

RIDE Outcomes

70% of RIDE graduates who have completed their training are in practice in rural/underserved areas of the state and region (based on 39 graduates over 5 cohorts). 90% of these graduates are practicing general dentistry (including pediatric dentistry). Satisfaction with RIDE has been very high among students, faculty and participating community clinics. RIDE is a proven model of improving access to dental care in rural and/or underserved communities.

Link to RIDE page on UWSOD Website (includes brief video of RIDE program)

Attachments
1. Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE): A Partnership with Eastern Washington
2. Presenter Bios
Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE)
A Partnership with Eastern Washington

Presentation to UW Board Of Regents
September 8, 2016
Dr. Joel Berg, Dean UW School of Dentistry
Dr. Art DiMarco, EWU RIDE Program Director
Renelle Conner, 4th year RIDE Student
RIDE Purpose

Train dentists for practice in rural and underserved areas of the state and region
Percent of US Dental Grads Going to Rural Areas 1971-5 to 2001-5 (ADA)

Rural % of Total

1971-5 to 2001-5

- 1971 to 1975: 6.76%
- 1976 to 1980: 7.36%
- 1981 to 1985: 5.85%
- 1986 to 1990: 4.4%
- 1991 to 1995: 4.27%
- 1996 to 2000: 4.33%
- 2001 to 2005: 4.17%
History and Origins of the RIDE Program

- Hosted by EWU/School of Dental Hygiene
  - Alignment with EWU mission
  - Dental Hygiene and Biology faculty
  - Interprofessional and intra-professional training
- Based on WWAMI Model
  - Adapted for dentistry (can practice after DDS)
  - Super-generalist curriculum
- Funded in 2007 with new WWAMI Spokane site
- Strong Spokane community support
RIDE is a Partnership

- UW School of Dentistry
- UW School of Medicine / WWAMI
- Eastern Washington University
- Washington Community Health Centers (CHCs)
- Spokane District Dental Society and Spokane Community
RIDE Outcomes (2008-2016)

• 70% of RIDE graduates who have completed training are in rural/underserved areas in the state and region
  ▪ N = 39 (2012-2016, 5 cohorts)
  ▪ 90% in general dentistry (including pediatric dentistry)
• RIDE students
  ▪ Prefer smaller communities, rural working environments
  ▪ Increased cultural awareness
• Educational equivalence, similar academic outcomes
• Very high student and preceptor satisfaction
  ▪ More applicants than we can accept
• Exceptional partnership with EWU and community clinics/dentists
• National awards; dental school ranking: 5th in nation, 15th in world
Care in rural/underserved communities

• RIDE students deliver care with supervision at Community Clinics
  – 26,000 hours of patient care in rural/underserved areas
  – Last year 6300 procedures completed by RIDE students, 7-9 patients/day
  – Most patients < 200% federal poverty level
Additional community benefits

• Teledentistry Network (Distance learning, preceptor calibration/CE, consultation)
• RIDE-type rotations for Seattle UW dental students
  – Western WA community clinics and tribal sites
  – Self-sustaining; adds 11,000 hrs. of patient care per year
  – Changing student attitudes – more interest in rural/underserved
• Rotations in Montana (with federal grants)
• Increased public visibility for oral health
• RIDE graduates become leaders!
The Future

Grow RIDE

– “Bridge” proposal 2017-19 biennium:
  • Develop second year of dental school in Spokane, same number students (8) within current space

– Expand program in 2019-21 biennium:
  • New Simulation Laboratory
  • Increase to 30 students/year

– Partnership with WWAMI
  • Space and curriculum
Summary

• Significant outcomes for relatively modest investment
• Proven impact on access to care in rural/underserved areas
• Strong partnerships with EWU, Spokane, & community clinics
• Replicable educational model for dentistry
EWU Perspective:
RIDE is a value-added program

• Complements world-class Dental Hygiene Program
  – Innovative curriculum, jointly-created
  – Faculty enthusiasm
  – Accreditation site visitors’ high praise for RIDE

• Personal reflection
  – RIDE is a unique partnership and opportunity

• High caliber students
  – Receive intense mentoring
  – Team players but also independent; hard working
  – Interested in the underserved and rural practice
Student Perspective

• Renelle Conner, Senior RIDE student
Questions?
Joel Berg, DDS, Dean, UW School of Dentistry

Dr. Berg is the Dean of the UW School of Dentistry. An international expert in Pediatric Dentistry and 2012 president of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Dr Berg previously held executive positions at Philips Oral Healthcare and ESPE Dental. He is the author of numerous published manuscripts and abstracts and a co-editor of a textbook on early childhood oral health. Dr. Berg received a DDS degree in 1983, a Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry in 1985, and an MS degree in oral biology in 1985, all from the University of Iowa. Before joining the UW first as chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry in 2003, he also served on dental faculty at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Texas. In 2011, Dr. Berg was named the Washington Dental Service Foundation Distinguished Professor for Dentistry. Dr. Berg has received numerous awards and participates in ongoing interdisciplinary research collaborations with the School of Engineering in the area of caries diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Berg currently serves as the head of the UW Board of Health Science Deans.

Art DiMarco, DMD, EWU RIDE Director, Spokane

Dr. Art DiMarco is Director of the RIDE Program in Spokane and Affiliate Faculty at UWSOD. In addition, he is professor of dental hygiene at Eastern Washington University and a long-term clinician, author, and educator. During his more than thirty-five years of clinical practice, he has taught in a number of dental, dental hygiene, and dental assisting programs. His research and publications have focused primarily on the efficacy and administration of local anesthesia in both educational and non-educational settings. Paralleling these activities, he continues to teach many didactic and hands-on university and continuing education courses in local anesthesia for dentists, dental hygienists, and dental and dental hygiene students. In addition to the Curriculum Committee on which he serves, he is also a member of the UWSOD Student Progress Committee as Spokane RIDE representative. He is an active member of the Spokane District Dental Society and has served on the Executive Board.
Renelle Conner is a Senior RIDE student. A member of the Yakama Nation, she received some of her dental care at the Indian Health Service clinic in her hometown of Toppenish, Washington. Renelle joined the Air Force when she was 19. Stationed in Alaska, she forecasted storms in conjunction with rescue operations in the deadly waters off the coast, as well as facilitating flights for necessary supplies in and out of remote towns. Because of the challenges she experienced with specialty dental care on the reservation, Renelle felt she could have an important impact in her community by pursuing a career in dentistry. She did her pre-dental coursework at Eastern Washington University (EWU), graduating with honors. Searching for dental schools, Renelle came across the UW School of Dentistry’s Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE) program, and, seeing the same values and beliefs she held, knew that the UW would equip her with the tools to effect change. In the fourth year of the program, Renelle is hoping to specialize in orthodontics and return to the same Indian Health Service clinic, serving as an inspiration for her Yakama Nation community and bringing her journey full circle. “We’re given these amazing tools,” says Renelle, “and we have a responsibility to help those in need.”