



WWAMI School of Medical Education
University of Alaska Anchorage
Alaska's Medical School



Senate Finance Committee March 25, 2019

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E'15 Class



E'16 Class



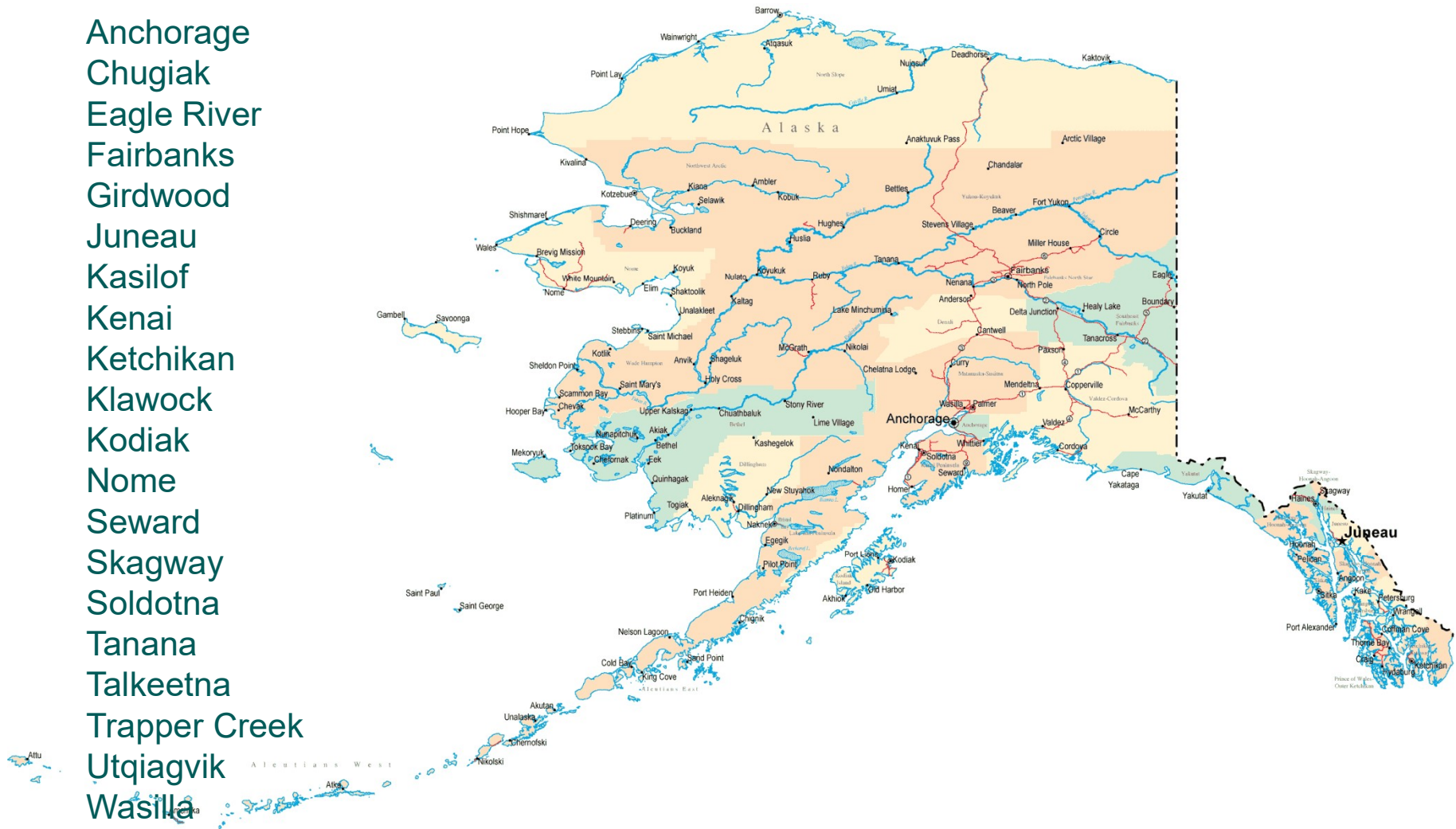
E'17 Class



E'18 Class

ALASKA WWAMI STUDENTS ARE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS

Anchorage
Chugiak
Eagle River
Fairbanks
Girdwood
Juneau
Kasilof
Kenai
Ketchikan
Klawock
Kodiak
Nome
Seward
Skagway
Soldotna
Tanana
Talkeetna
Trapper Creek
Utqiagvik
Wasilla



AK WWAMI Mission Fit: Likely to return to Alaska, Rural, Alaska Native

Physician Workforce Needs in Alaska

Chronic shortages

- Primary Care, Psychiatry, Emergency Medicine
- Rural areas

Annual Need

- Approximately 60 new physicians/year
- Population growing older- greater need for care
- Alaska Physicians (40% over age 55)

Recruitment, retention

- Expensive (\$100K-\$1M), difficult to retain
- Compete with entire nation which has a shortage of primary care physicians

Need for public medical education in Alaska

- Alaska residents more likely to return to Alaska to practice

Medical Education

Every State in our country funds medical education

- Publicly funded medical schools through their respective University systems
- Through cooperative compacts such as WWAMI

WWAMI uniquely suited to Alaska

- Opportunity for 20 Alaska students each year to attend one of the top 10 medical schools in the country
- Alaska students may complete entire medical education in Alaska with exception of two clinical rotations at University of Washington in Seattle

Medical Education

- **Cost to Alaska**

- \$750,000 per year from UA (.0023% of UA's FY19 UGF spend; .00084% of UA's total budget) for classroom teaching in the first year
- \$3.1 million per year from State of Alaska funding for years 2 – 4 including second year classroom teaching
- This is \$5.50/Alaskan compared to >\$20.00/North Dakotan, a state with a similar population



Strong Return on Investment

Financial plus for Alaska

- >70% of funds invested by the state are spent in Alaska
 - Classroom instruction
 - Management of 59 clerkships and 20 volunteer preceptorships

Creates jobs

- Faculty and staff who educate 80 medical students per year
- New physicians contribute to the growth of Alaska's healthcare industry
- Economic impact of one primary care physician estimated at over \$1 million per year

WWAMI graduates return to Alaska

- Return on investment of 71%, 61% returning Alaskans
- 11% of licensed Alaska physicians are WWAMI graduates
 - Largest contributing medical school to Alaska physician workforce

WWAMI Program Founding Goals

Access to Publicly Supported Medical Education

- WWAMI is Alaska's medical school
- UWSOM receives >6000 out of state applications/yr and admits 0.3% of those applicants
 - 1 in 300 chance of Alaska student acceptance to UW School of Medicine
 - Publicly funded schools give significant preference to their own state residents
- WWAMI guarantees 20 Alaska students admission with in-state tuition
 - 1 in 4 chance of acceptance to UW School of Medicine

Avoid excessive capital costs by using existing educational infrastructure

- Recent new medical schools >\$100M

Create Community-Based Medical Education

- Clinical training in Alaska has grown to 59 clerkship sites

ALASKA

WWAMI Program Site Map

2018-2019



WWAMI Program Founding Goals

Expand GME (residency programs) across WWAMI

- Alaska Family Medicine Residency Program
- UW Pediatric Residency Track
- Need for Internal Medicine & Psychiatric Residency Programs

Increase the number of primary care physicians /address maldistribution of physicians

- AK WWAMI graduate return rate is 61%, and grows to 71% as WWAMI grads from other sites come to practice in Alaska
- AK WWAMI grads must payback ½ of state investment if they do not return (3 years rural, 5 years urban)
- >50% of AK WWAMI graduates choose primary care

ALASKA WWAMI GRADUATES PRACTICE THROUGHOUT ALASKA

Anchorage
 Bethel
 Chugiak
 Cordova
 Eagle River
 Ester
 Fairbanks
 Girdwood
 Homer
 JBER
 Juneau
 Kenai
 Ketchikan
 Kodiak
 Nome
 Palmer
 Petersburg
 Seward
 Sitka
 Soldotna
 Tok
 Wasilla



Alaska WWAMI

1971

University of Alaska Fairbanks

5-10 students/year

1989

University of Alaska Anchorage

10 students/year

2007

Increased from 10 to 20 students/year



Alaska WWAMI Admissions

Alaska WWAMI Admissions Committee:

Katie Sheridan MD, Chair	WWAMI alumna	Family Medicine	Soldotna
Nora Nagaruk MD	WWAMI alumna	Internal Medicine	Nome
Donna Galbreath MD	WWAMI alumna	Family Medicine	ANMC
Bob Urata MD	WWAMI alumnus	Family Medicine	Juneau
Pete Schaab MD	Orthopedic surgeon (retired)		Anchorage

Interviews at UAA – decisions made jointly with UWSOM Admissions
Executive Committee

80-95 applicants/year for 20 students (also select 10 alternates)
Have the pipeline applicants to grow to 30 excellent students/year

WWAMI Curriculum 2018-2019

Enhanced integration, active learning, patient care focus

Three Phases

- Foundations Phase at UAA
 - 18 months (3 semesters, equivalent of years 1 and 2) – clinically focused curriculum
 - UAA Alaska model chosen as new curriculum template
- Patient Care Phase (clinical training – required clerkships)
- Exploration and Focus Phase (advanced clinical training, research, residency prep)

Alaska WWAMI Clinical Training Communities:

- Anchorage
- Eagle River
- Palmer / Wasilla
- Talkeetna
- Fairbanks
- Delta Junction
- Galena
- Homer
- Seward
- Soldotna
- Juneau
- Sitka
- Haines
- Petersburg
- Ketchikan
- Craig
- Metlakatla
- Kodiak
- Unalaska
- Bethel
- Nome
- Naknek
- Dillingham
- Valdez
- Utqiagvik
- Kotzebue
- Unalakleet

WWAMI Rural Programs

RUOP (Rural Underserved Opportunities Program)

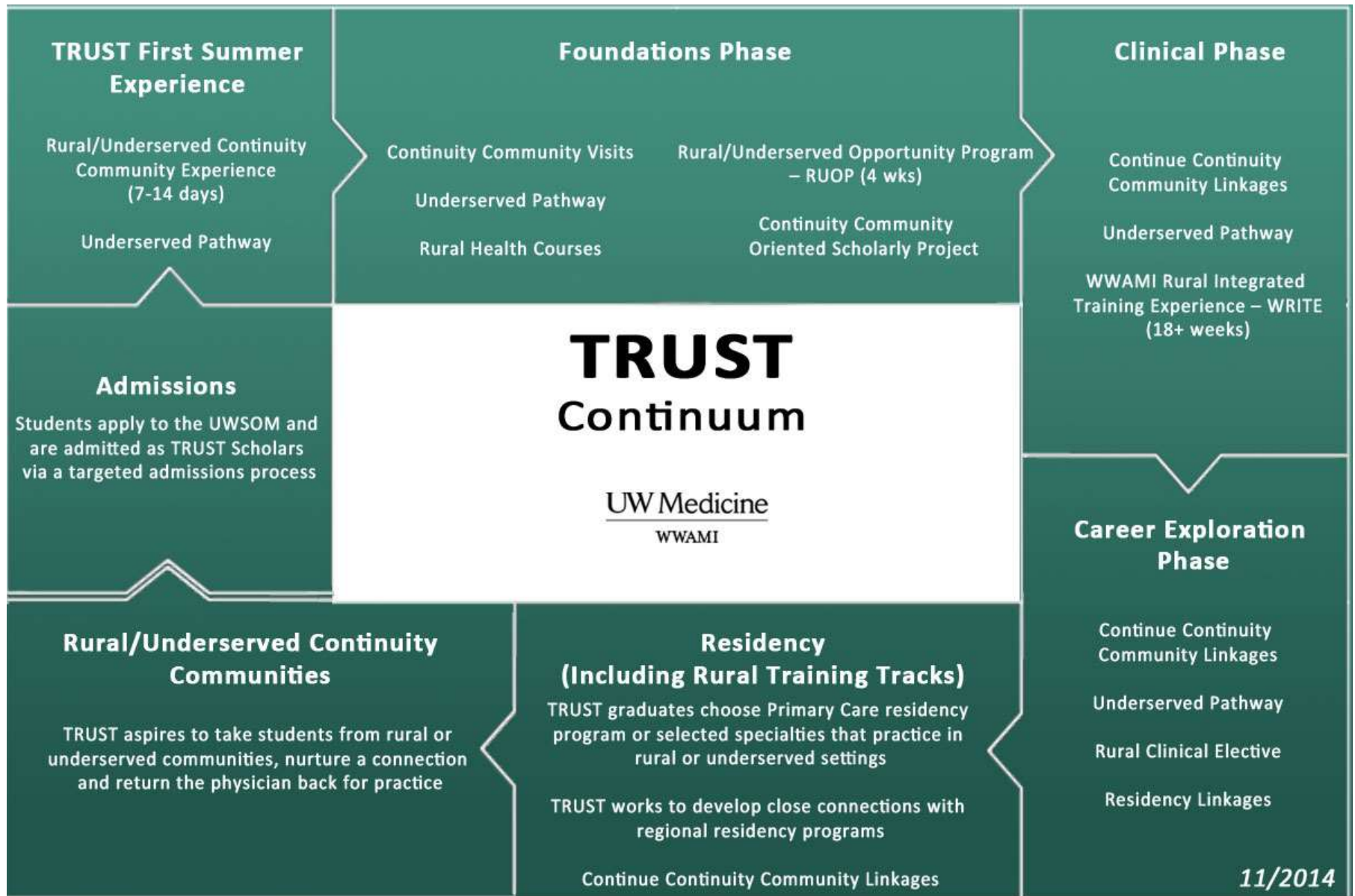
- Began 1989
- One month clinical experience between 1st – 2nd year
- 53% of students who participated in RUOP go into primary care

WRITE (WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience)

- Began 1996
- Longitudinal integrated clerkship – family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, and psychiatry clinical rotations – in Patient Care Phase
- 67% in primary care – 42% family medicine, 16% internal medicine, 9% pediatrics
- 35% in rural

TRUST (Targeted Rural Under Served Track)

- Began 2016
- Longitudinal integrated curriculum across 4 years in continuity community





WWAMI Alaska's Medical School

It takes a village.....



UAA WWAMI Foundations Faculty:

- 11 PhD (8 FT)
- 29 MD (4 FT; 3 .5 FTE; several .2 FTE), many volunteer
- 20 MD clinical preceptors (volunteer)
- 12 summer RUOP preceptors (volunteer)
- 8 PhD/MD summer research mentors



Faculty have UAA and UWSOM
faculty appointments

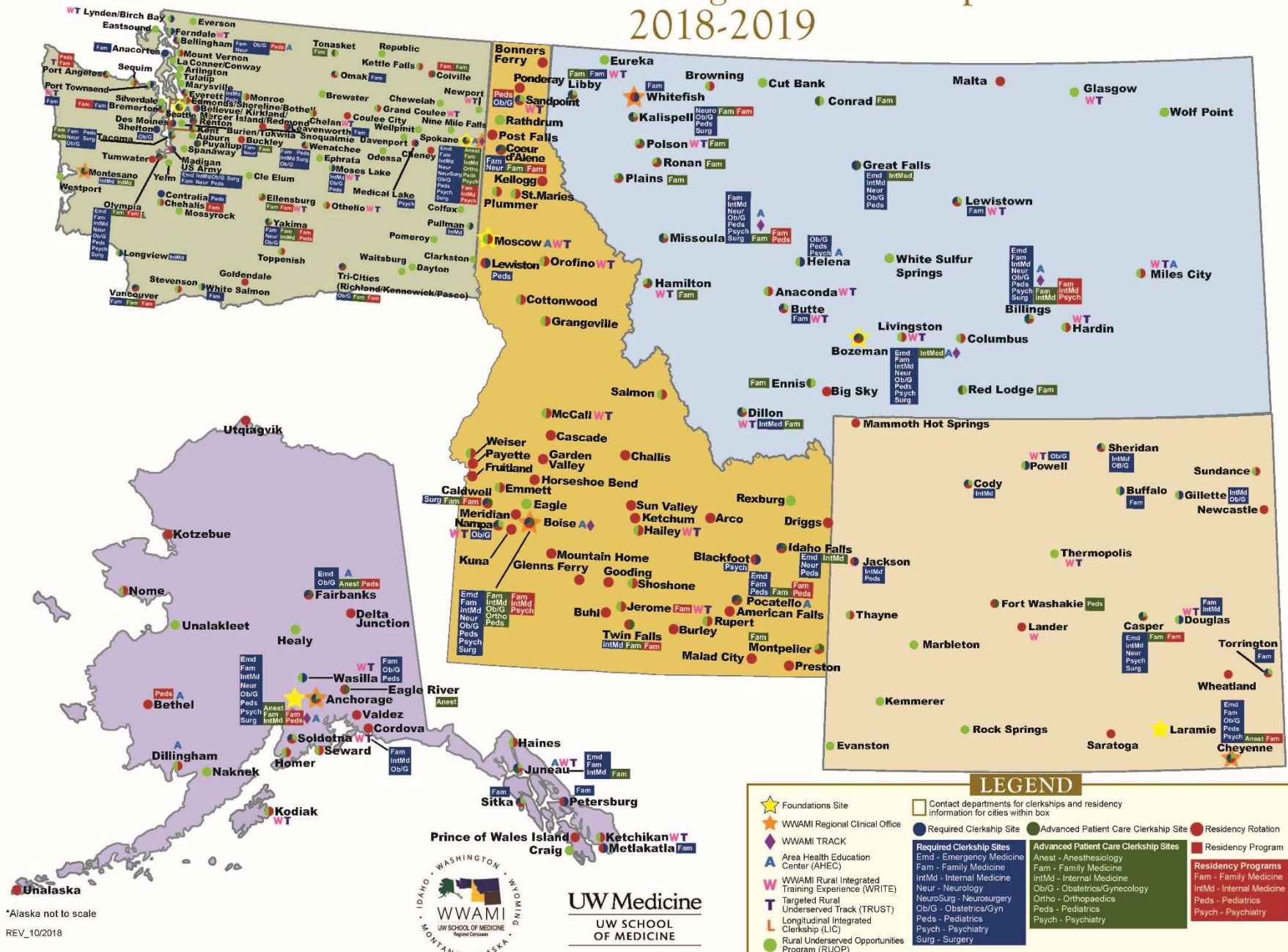
Alaska WWAMI Clinical Faculty

*It takes several
villages.....*

- Alaska has >200 WWAMI clinical faculty* teaching medical students and residents in 26 communities.
- They teach first, second, third and fourth year WWAMI medical students, and family medicine and pediatric residents.
- 377 clinical experience opportunities across the state for medical students and residents.
- 234 third and fourth year required and elective clinical rotations, including four longitudinal continuity rotations
 - (6 months-Kodiak, Soldotna, Juneau, Ketchikan)

* UW School of Medicine faculty appointments

WWAMI Program Site Map 2018-2019





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Hazel Brogdon – Alaska WWAMI student



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Thank you
Questions?