

Rasmussen selected for rural health care experience

Erin Rasmussen, physician student from Vermillion, will call Platte home for four weeks this summer as she learns first-hand about providing health care in rural South Dakota.

Rasmussen was selected in a competitive process to participate in the Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students (REHPS) in 2013. She is joined in Platte by Shelby Nielsen, pharmacy student from Castlewood. Platte was selected as a "Best Practice Model" site for REHPS this year.

The REHPS program connects interprofessional students enrolled in physician, physician assistant, doctor of nursing practice, and pharmacy programs through the University of South Dakota (USD) and South

Dakota State University (SDSU) with medical professionals practicing in nine rural South Dakota communities. The program has expanded from three sites in 2011, to six in 2012 and to nine in 2013. Platte is joined by Custer, Miller, Parkston, Redfield, Sisseton, Wagner, Wessington Springs and Winner. Each community will welcome two students.

In addition to the enriching career experience, students also will be involved in a community project designed to provide interaction with people outside of a clinical setting.

Kassy Youmans, REHPS program manager, said the student summer experience provides a framework for community leaders to follow in efforts to successfully

recruit and retain healthcare professionals.

"Rewarding, positive experiences early on in student training are influential in deciding future career paths. This opportunity exposes students to the exceptional health care services available in rural South Dakota along with the unique features of each community," Youmans said.

South Dakota is experiencing a shortage of health care workers. The number of high school graduates in the state decreases as the number of retirees is increasing. Between now and 2018, 10 percent of the new jobs in South Dakota will be healthcare related. Fifty-nine of South Dakota's 66 counties are designated as medically underserved.

FEELIN' GOOD!



The students of St. Agnes Elementary School, under the direction of Mary Schuh, presented their spring concert, "Feel'n Good!" on Wednesday evening, May 8, in the school auditorium. To view or purchase photos from this event, log on to spotted.plaintalk.net.

(Photo by David Lias)

15th Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference

This year marks the 15th year for the Area Mental Wellness Conference held June 5-6 in Yankton. Register before May 20 to attend the gathering at Mount Marty College to hear from national, regional and local experts in their various fields.

Integration of Care with Laura Galbreath, from SAMHS-HRSA Center in Washington, DC, bullying by Gary Namie, and safe dating by Michael Domitrz head the list of timely

topics addressed at the conference.

A special open to the public event, "Can I Kiss You?" by Michael Domitrz is Wednesday, June 5 at 5 p.m. at Mount Marty College Cyber Cafe.

Teachers, sons, daughters, parents, coaches, youth directors, singles, grandparents – all are invited to join this "unique journey he shares exploring what most of us have been taught is the "right way" to date verses the approach

everyone needs to make dating more fun and safer at the same time.

No need to make reservations. It will take about one hour of your time. And, of course, he will be sharing more information during the Thursday sessions at the conference.

The mentioned speakers and their information are a very important part of the conference; however, there is much more: Books Are Fun will

be set up, sponsors will have tables of available information/material, networking is a constant occurrence, the high school mental health career class will display posters, food will be served, Continued Education Units will be earned as well as college credit, silent auction items will be available for the shoppers, plus awards will be given.

More information is available at www.yamwi.org.

Upcoming Early Dismissal Days for Vermillion Public Schools

Thursday, May 16th-

"Students" only:
Elementary Schools - 2PM

Middle School & High School - 2:10PM

Last Day of School -

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Middle School & High School - 2PM



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 Patrick J. Collison, MD, FACS*
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 Jesse L. Kampshoff, MD*
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NEPHROLOGY
 Byron S. Nielsen, MD†
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 Curtis M. Adams, MD*
May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

Jill F. Sternquist, MD†
May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY
 Jeremy Kudera, MD, ABOS*
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 Lori A. Hansen, MD, FACP, FACCP*
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