



NORTH CENTRAL

Wisconsin Area Health Education Center

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Photo Caption: AMP graduates and their supporters gathered to celebrate at the Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin Campus in Wausau.

Top row (from left to right): Brandon Thao, Austin Stankowski, Madison Wells, Colin Moser, Molleysa Yang. Middle row (from left to right): Emily BonoAnno, Erin Jonas. Bottom row (from left to right): Ginseng Vang, Pang Khang, Karely Reyes, Ellie Matejka, Pearl Scallon, Emma Ceaglske

Last month, twelve individuals with aspirations to practice medicine in rural or underserved Wisconsin communities graduated from the [Advocates in Medicine Pathway Program \(AMP\)](#). Over the past six months, the graduates engaged in activities to help them prepare for the

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medical school application process such as mentoring, networking, job shadowing, a community health internship, and preparation for the MCAT, the Medical School entrance exam.

This competitive program accepts 10-12 individuals each year from rural and economically or environmentally disadvantaged backgrounds, and is a collaborative effort between North Central Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (AHEC), University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point at Wausau, and the Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin campus.

The AMP graduation took place at the Medical College of Wisconsin Campus. Friends, family, program staff, and even local elected officials gathered to celebrate their accomplishments. “Being in attendance for AMP Graduation was special,” says AHEC Pathways Program Coordinator, Tyler Schmidt. “These students have such great support systems that showed up for them at graduation. We had family members, current physicians, medical students, mentors, legislators, and program staff in attendance to give these graduates the support they need.”

“This program has provided me with invaluable mentorship, resources and guidance,” says Molleysa Yang, a first generation college graduate who wants to be a physician. Yang says the connections to peers, current medical students, and shadowing with physicians were especially valuable, especially those with similar backgrounds. “It gives me confidence that this is what I want, regardless of challenges to come.”

The next cohort of AMP will begin this September for an extended version of the program with even more support to prepare for their medical school applications. For more information about AMP visit <https://ahec.wisc.edu/amp/>.

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