

**Visioneering
Unified Legislative Alliance
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL - 2007**

Instructions: Complete the following information provided below. Proposals should be no longer than two pages total in length (not including any drafts of proposed legislation). Proposals must be received by the Center for Community Support & Research (Wichita State University, Box 201, Wichita, KS 67260-0201 or e-mail at scott.wituk@wichita.edu) by 3 pm on November 1, 2007 for consideration.

Proposal: *It is requested that the Visioneering Unified Legislative Alliance include in its list of priorities for the 2008 legislative session...(describe in brief detail the proposal)*

The Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education (WCGME) is requesting the creation of sustained, line-item funding for the WCGME graduate medical education program in the state budget. This funding is to address accreditation concerns surrounding scholarly activity, research, protective faculty time for teaching and administration as well as funding for resident physician rotations not funded by Medicare. These core activities must be maintained and eventually strengthened in order for WCGME to produce physicians for the state of Kansas.

Background of issue (i.e., relevant data, history): There is a crisis looming on the horizon that is a very real threat to the health of Kansans in communities throughout the state. Our ability to recruit, train and place physicians in Kansas is being seriously challenged. For many years, our state has depended on its community-based training as a key source of physician recruitment. After completing their training, many graduates establish their practices in cities and towns throughout Kansas. But recent reductions in federal funding combined with changes in the requirements for accreditation of residency programs have resulted in a fiscal crisis that will have to be addressed to keep tomorrow's doctors coming to and staying in Kansas.

To address these accreditation concerns, WCGME needs to find additional faculty and research staff. This will require projected funding increases of \$6.3 million in 2008 and \$9.2 million in 2009. With the addition of these operating expenses, WCGME's projected shortfall will increase to \$9.6 million in 2008 and \$12.5 million in 2009.

Describe the regional impact or significance to South Central Kansas:

Over 60 percent of the physicians practicing in south central Kansas received some or all of their training through the now WCGME administered residency programs. Without the residencies the majority of the counties in Kansas including the south central region would be underserved for primary care.

The WCGME program has a direct economic impact of over \$48,000,000 in south central Kansas. Also, as reported by the American Academy of Family Physicians, “in addition to the health care services they provide, family physicians are significant generators of economic activity in local communities. A recent study by the Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies evaluated the impact of family physicians on a state-by-state basis. The study found that in Kansas, family physicians have an economic impact of \$878,642 per doctor, per year. The total impact of a family physician in Kansas is estimated to be \$727,515,645.” In 2007 alone, WCGME placed eight family physicians in the south central region and a total of 19 family physicians throughout the State of Kansas.

Describe the relationship of the proposal to job growth, per capita income and/or education:

Following four years of medical school, graduate medical education is the next phase in the education of training physicians to practice medicine. We focus on educating physicians for the State of Kansas, 55 percent of WCGME educated physicians practice in Kansas.

Persons/Organizations/Groups with primary responsibility for advancing proposed legislation (please provide contact information, including telephone and e-mail):

Don Brada, MD, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education
1010 N Kansas Wichita, KS67214-3199
316-293-2665
dbrada@kumc.edu

Penny L. Vogelsang, Chief Operating Officer, WCGME
1010 N Kansas Wichita, KS 67214-3199
316-293-2665
316-208-6534
pvogelsa@kumc.edu

Jon Rosell, PhD, Executive Director, Medical Society of Sedgwick County
1102 S Hillside Wichita, KS 67211
316-683-7557
jonrosell@med-soc.org

Draft of proposed legislation: (if applicable)

Name of group/organization:

Wichita Center For Graduate Medical Education (WCGME)

Name of your principal ULA item(s):

Funding request in support of graduate medical education. Our FY'08 request is in the amount of \$9.6 million to fund additional faculty and research staff to address accreditation concerns and to address projected federal funding shortfalls.

Does the ULA item relate to Job Growth or Education? If Yes, please explain.

Yes. Following four years of medical school, graduate medical education is the next phase in the education of training physicians to practice medicine. We focus on educating physicians for the State of Kansas, 55% of WCGME educated physicians practice in Kansas.

Name of person(s) who will organize effort for legislative item(s):

Penny L. Vogelsang, Chief Operating Officer
Don Brada, MD, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education

Additional resources to organize effort for legislative item(s):

WCGME has minimal funding for collateral materials. Lobbying efforts will be accomplished by loaned services from Via Christi Regional Medical Center and Wesley Medical Center.

Describe any previous efforts regarding the legislative item(s) during previous legislative sessions:

A motion was made and passed on the floor of House last year in support of new funding for WCGME. The motion passed to late in the session to be considered by the Senate.

Planned Session Activities:

Describe plans to communicate legislative item(s) during legislative session, including ways to engage legislators & public:

WCGME has already begun dialogue with the leadership in the House and the Senate as well as legislators in South Central Kansas. We have met with the Governor's staff in August 2007 and we have meetings arranged for October 23rd and November 2nd. In addition, we are working with the Medical Society of Sedgwick County (MSSC), Kansas Medical Society (KMS) and Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) to spread our message.

Amount of time planned to develop and deliver communication plan for legislative item(s) during legislative session:

WCGME has developed a strategic plan, which includes a PowerPoint presentation, brochure and correspondence regarding our request for funding. Staff and executives will make themselves available as needed during the legislative session.

Person(s) who will be involved in developing and delivering communication plan for legislative items(s) during legislative session:

Don Brada, MD, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education
Penny L. Vogelsang, Chief Operating Officer, WCGME
Laurie Labarca, President and CEO, WCGME; Interim President and CEO Via Christi
Wichita Health Network
Hugh Tappan, WCGME Executive Committee; President and CEO Wesley Medical
Center
S. Edwards Dismuke, MD, MSPH, WCGME Executive Committee; Dean, KU School of
Medicine-Wichita
Jon Rosell, Ph.D., Executive Director, Medical Society of Sedgwick County

Describe recruitment of local officials or other representatives to participate in committee testimony or in meeting with state legislators:

WCGME is working with the Medical Society on a task force call MERIT (Medical Education and Research Improvement Task Force). This task force includes the mayor, legislators, county commissioners, and the Chamber of Commerce representatives to assist us in developing and implementing a plan for obtaining funding to train resident physicians. In addition, we are communicating with our alumni throughout the state to solicit their support.

Identify any legislators who will carry the bill or be key players in advancing the legislative item(s):

Rep. Brenda Landwehr
Rep. Jim Ward
Speaker of the House, Melvin Neufeld
Rep. JoAnn Pottorff
Sen. Susan Wagel
Rep. Raj Goyle

What challenges do you expect during the legislative session and what plans do you have to address them?

We think our biggest challenge is keeping the issue alive throughout the legislative session as multiple projects request increased funding. We will be working with alumni and constituents throughout the State of Kansas and requesting their assistance to ensure that medical care in our communities continues to advance in the only way it can: on the strength of a viable residency program that recruits and retains the highest quality physicians. To accomplish this goal it is imperative that a budget with line item funding for WCGME residency training.