

EDUCATION YEAR IN REVIEW 2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION THROUGH COMMITMENT TO MCW'S VALUES

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he Medical College of Wisconsin continued its dedication to the education mission throughout the 2024-2025 academic year, embracing a multitude of changes within our institution, all while steadfastly living MCW's values of caring, collaborative, curiosity, inclusive, integrity and respect.

UR VALUES

acting in caring ways
engaging in collaborative efforts
approaching our world with curiosity
advancing inclusive practices
demonstrating integrity in all we do
treating everyone with respect

Learners preparing to become tomorrow's health professionals and scientists continued their quest for knowledge and growth while welcoming Interim Provost, Cheryl A. Maurana, PhD, and Interim Dean of the School of Medicine, Deborah M. Costakos, MD, MS, in their respective leadership roles. Numerous federal executive orders required the MCW community to make changes to various offices, policies and programs across our four missions. While many transitions took place during the 2024-2025 academic year, MCW used these opportunities to forge new beginnings with a resolve to strengthen its commitment to remaining a distinguished leader and innovator in the education and development of the next generation of physicians, scientists, pharmacists and health professionals. Our values are at the very center of our identity as an institution, and MCW's faculty, staff and students continue to live each value within the MCW community, while also making a difference in the communities we serve.

MCW's School of Graduate Studies hosted the inaugural Wisconsin Science Education and Research (WiSER)
Conference in October 2024, which brought together more than 450 participants from 23 Wisconsin institutions and beyond. The conference created a unique, inclusive space where undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research staff and faculty shared

discoveries, exchanged ideas and built connections that will shape the future of science in our state. MCW's School of Pharmacy launched a new student chapter of the Industry Pharmacists Organization in spring 2025 to expose students to the wide variety of careers available to PharmD graduates. Student members collaborate with MCW professors who have connections in the industry and can help build their professional network. The School of Medicine successfully launched Phases 2 and 3 of the MCWfusion[™] Curriculum while concurrently running the Discovery Curriculum, highlighting our curiosity towards new approaches to medical education. MCW-Green Bay students participated in an interprofessional simulation to improve their knowledge, skills, and attitudes towards collaborative teamwork. At MCW-Central Wisconsin, the Stop the Bleed program highlighted our caring and collaborative values, as it created expanded access to hemorrhage control education within the local community. The program focuses on practical skills such as wound packing, tourniquet use and pressure application.

As MCW's education mission continues to embrace an innovative approach to academic medicine, it also continues to embrace the responsibility of living our values in all that we do, ensuring that our learners will be well-poised to make a difference in their communities and acquire the skills to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of medical discovery and patient care.



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

"In the School of Graduate Studies, MCW's values of caring, collaboration, curiosity, inclusivity, integrity and respect continually guide our actions and vision. These principles shape how we conduct groundbreaking research, promote discovery, foster scholarship, and how we support one another as a dynamic community of learners and leaders. Our values create a solid foundation for preparing our learners to make meaningful contributions to science, medicine, and the communities they serve."

Daisy Sahoo, PhD | Dean of the School of Graduate Studies



Inaugural WiSER Conference





The foundation of the School of Graduate Studies is built upon shared principles that are exemplified by MCW's values each and every day. All these values were recently demonstrated through the incredible work of our faculty and learners during the inaugural Wisconsin Science Education and Research (WiSER) Conference in October 2024 at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Led by Dr. Michaela Patterson (Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy) and Dr. Dawn Wenzel (Department of Biochemistry), WiSER brought together more than 450 participants from 23 Wisconsin institutions and beyond. The conference created a unique, **inclusive** space where undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research staff, and faculty, all side by side, shared discoveries, exchanged ideas, and built

connections that will shape the future of science in our state.

What made the WiSER Conference especially powerful was the way it embodied MCW's values in action.

READ MORE>>



"The faculty mentors seem to take a genuine interest in the students and take the time to get to know the person and not just the scientist."

- Carlos Herrada, Graduate Student, Dept. of Biophysics



SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Preparing PharmD Students for Pharmaceutical Industry Careers

In spring 2025, the MCW School of Pharmacy launched a new student chapter of the Industry Pharmacists Organization to expose students to the wide variety of careers available to PharmD graduates. Student members collaborate with MCW professors who have connections in the industry and can help build their professional network. Abhay Chauhan, PhD, MPharm, BPharm, associate professor, is one of the pioneers of dendrimers for drug delivery applications and has created a cosmetic anti-aging cream called Amruth. Kristin Busse, PharmD, BCPS, assistant professor and research oversight program director, has contacts at NIH and FDA through her fellowship training at NIH's Clinical Center and NIAID.

Three graduates from the PharmD Class of 2025 accepted postdoctoral positions in the pharmaceutical industry, all displaying curiosity about the long-term, far-reaching impact industry pharmacists can have on patient care. **READ MORE>>**

"Given the unique nature of the Doctor of Pharmacy program at MCW, student pharmacists begin direct patient care experiences early in the first year of the curriculum. These early exposures to patients in various settings allow students to exhibit the attributes of a caring and compassionate healthcare provider, under the mentorship of precepting pharmacists and other healthcare providers."



George E. MacKinnon III, PhD, MS, RPh, FASHP |
 Founding Dean of the School of Pharmacy









"Being involved in so many volunteer opportunities, including the Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured, helped me connect with my passions and apply what I was learning in class to genuine patient experiences. I know I would not be the person I am today if I didn't have these opportunities."

Liliana Galvan,PharmD ('25)

MCW'S SCHOOL OF PHARMACY HAS ACCOMPLISHED MUCH THIS PAST YEAR THAT WE ARE PROUD OF. CHECK OUT MORE HERE! >>

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE | Milwaukee Campus



"This year's theme for the 2025 Medical College of Wisconsin Office of Academic Affairs Impact Report, Striving for Excellence in Education Through Commitment to MCW's Values, allows MCW's School of Medicine (SOM) to showcase the many reasons we are extremely proud of our students, who in addition to succeeding academically, enrich our communities. Our students embody our core values of caring, curiosity, collaborative, respect, inclusive, and integrity, while also demonstrating compassion, excellence, and service on a daily basis, which confirms that the future of medicine is indeed bright."

José Franco, MD, Professor of Medicine (Gastroenterology and Hepatology)
 Senior Associate Dean for Education in the School of Medicine
 Kerschner Family Chair in Medical Education

During the 2024-2025 academic year, MCW's School of Medicine (SOM) continued to reach curricular milestones within its two concurrently running curriculums (MCWfusion™ and Discovery) while navigating changes in leadership. The SOM continues to live MCW's values of curiosity, collaborative and integrity and remains a distinguished leader in academic medicine through continuous implementation of inspiring new approaches to medical education.

On Jan. 1, 2025, Deborah M. Costakos, MD, MS, Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, began serving as the Interim Dean of the School of Medicine. In this role, she is responsible for the conduct and advancement of SOM programs, maintaining the highest standards of excellence and integrity within SOM academic affairs, fostering

competitive biomedical research programs, and ensuring high-quality patient care and engagement of communities to advance health for all.

Additionally, the School of Medicine has continued its concurrent running of the MCWfusion and Discovery Curriculums, with Discovery officially entering its last year with the Class of 2026, and MCWfusion successfully launching Phases 2 and 3 of the curriculum in the past year.

Students in Phase 2 of the MCWfusion Curriculum entered into their core clinical experiences and clerkship year.

During Phase 3, students began individualizing their training and differentiating towards their specialty choice.

READ MORE>>





Deborah M. Costakos, MD, MS Interim Dean of the School of Medicine Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE | Green Bay Campus



MCW-Green Bay students participated in an interprofessional simulation to improve their knowledge, skills, and attitudes towards collaborative teamwork. Within this interprofessional collaboration with Bellin College Nursing and Imaging students, they identified the importance of values, ethics, and mutual respect, identified roles and responsibilities in the care of mass casualty patients, communicated in a respectful and compassionate manner between team members and patients, while learning to adapt one's own role to meet the needs of a mass casualty situation. This collaboration provided the opportunity to learn from and about one another, towards the building of professional relationships within the context of patient-, client-, and family-centered care.

This experience is a highlight for first-year students, as it puts them into a real-life scenario. They love the hands-on learning, as well as the chance work to with professionals who they will collaborate with in the clinical settings in the near future. Developing solid team building skills in a normal clinical environment is important to the day-to-day operations of a clinical practice, and learning to do so in a mass-casualty situation is even more critical. We are incredibly grateful for our ongoing educational partnership with Bellin College, which has allowed our students to really learn what it means to be part of a team.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE | Central Wisconsin Campus

MCW-CW Highlights Caring and Collaboration Values Through Stop the Bleed Program

Over the past year, several Physician in the Community student projects have centered on emergency preparedness and outreach in Central Wisconsin, reflecting a deep commitment to community care. A key initiative expanded access to hemorrhage control education through the *Stop the Bleed* (STB) program, a program of the American College of Surgeons. In collaboration with the Hmong and Hispanic Communication Network (H2N), Community Health Workers were trained as STB instructors and led bilingual handson training sessions on local farms, serving primarily Hispanic agricultural workers. Each session focused on practical skills—wound packing, tourniquet use, and pressure application. Each site also received a free hemorrhage control kit to support emergency readiness. A partnership with the Aspirus Wausau Hospital Trauma Team further strengthened efforts through monthly meetings with healthcare professionals, on-site training, and distribution of bleeding control kits to schools and businesses.

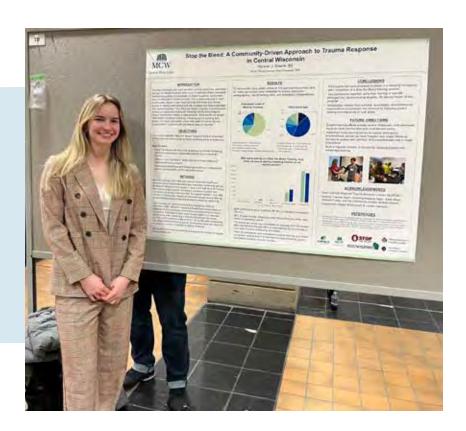
This collaborative approach not only boosted participants' confidence in responding to bleeding emergencies but also fostered sustainable community engagement through a "train-the-trainer" model. Future efforts will continue to focus on outreach in underserved areas and long-term impact tracking.

"I was motivated to become a Stop the Bleed instructor by the longer EMS response times prevalent in rural areas, which are often longer than the time it takes for a person to bleed out from a major injury. I wanted to empower people living in rural areas with the skills needed to help in a bleeding emergency. I was able to partner with a local organization, H2N, to lead trainings on farms in the Wausau area. It was very rewarding to watch participants' confidence grow through the training as they learned and practiced the skills for bleeding control."

> - Lauren Harrison, MCW-CW M3 Student

"Being a part of the Stop the Bleed project has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Teaching lifesaving skills to members of my community not only empowers them in emergency situations but also reminds me of the impact we as healthcare providers can have beyond the hospital. It has been a meaningful way to connect with my community while growing as a future physician."

- Hannah Kolarik, MCW-CW M3 Student



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ANESTHESIA PROGRAM

Over the past year, the MSA program has embraced MCW's value of Acting in Caring Ways through the efforts of our students, faculty, and staff. In December 2024, our Student Government Association (SGA) partnered with Box of Balloons, a nonprofit organization, to assemble personalized birthday boxes for children in need. Each box included decorations, party favors, an activity and a gift — ensuring that every child could celebrate their special day with joy.

The MSA faculty also model care in the way they mentor students. During the 2024-2025 academic year, faculty leaders have added greater intention to their one-on-one mentor meetings, discussing everything from clinical evaluations and didactic progress to wellness and coaching on professional growth as future anesthesiologist assistants. These conversations reflect a commitment to supporting the whole student, not just their academic performance.

Our staff have similarly deepened their approach to student support. In the last year, a new process was established in which program administrators meet with each student individually to gather preferences and personal considerations before building the advanced year clinical schedule. In addition to managing the many logistical pieces of the program, staff consistently offer a listening ear, connecting students with resources and help them navigate challenges as they grow.

Together, our students, faculty, and staff have created a culture of caring that supports well-being, celebrates growth, and reminds us that compassion is as essential to training as it is to patient care.







"The MCW MSA program has been a transformative experience, offering personalized mentoring and unparalleled support that sets it apart. Learning from dedicated anesthesia professionals and gaining exceptional clinical training has made transitioning from my undergraduate studies while working at Froedtert Hospital to its academic counterpart, MCW, a unique opportunity to experience."

- Rania Alzubeidi, MSA Class of 2025 Student

DEGREES AND ENROLLMENT DATA FOR THE 2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

ENROLLMENT DATA AND STATISTICS FROM **ALL SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES**

DEGREES AWARDED:

Certificates 4

9 DrPH

Masters 40

MD 249

MSA 17

PhD 43

43 PharmD

ENROLLMENT NUMBERS REPRESENT CURRENT 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR:

Graduate Students

144 Pharmacy Students

MSA Program

53 Students

468

Medical Students -1,108 All Three Campuses

MCW ENROLLMENT **BY GENDER:**

> 59% Female

41% Male

Includes students in the Medical School at all three campuses, in the School of Pharmacy, in the Master of Science in Anesthesia program and in the School of **Graduate Studies**

ENROLLMENT BY FEDERALLY DEFINED 118 **NON-US CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT:**

CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS WHO ARE WISCONSIN RESIDENTS: 57%*

This includes:

Medical Students

582 All Three Campuses

252 **Graduate Students**

112 Pharmacy Students

MSA Program Students 32

*Residency is carefully vetted for programs leading to an MD, including MSTP programs. Residency for other programs is based on the best available data in the Student Information System.

ENROLLMENT BY FEDERALLY DEFINED RACE/ETHNICITY:

157 Hispanic

> 288 Asian

Black or

97 African American

> 925 White

More Than One Race/ Group

59

Race & Ethnicity **75** Unknown

MSA PROGRAM LEADERSHIP 2016-2025

The MSA Program began only nine years ago, in 2016. As of 2025, MSA faculty have a combined 127 years of clinical experience and 87 years of teaching experience. Administrators have a combined 51 years of experience.

MSA PERSONNEL:

Faculty Administrators (those with admin positions such as Director, Assistant Director, etc.)

Faculty/Instructors total 11

Clinicians 10

Staff 5

(non-clinicians) 3

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE:

Clinical Experience

Combined 127

Average (rounded up)

Teaching Experience

Combined 87

11 Average (rounded up)

ADMINISTRATIVE **EXPERIENCE:**

(staff and faculty with admin appointments)

Combined 51

Average 10

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES 2024-2025

DOCTORAL SPECIFIC:

PhD Matriculants 58

DrPH Matriculants 14

Total Doctoral

Enrollments 359

OTHER PROGRAMS SPECIFIC:

Total Students 130

Master's Matriculants 46

ENROLLED STUDENTS FALL 2024

Graduate Student Awards

OUTSTANDING MENTOR Jennifer Tuscher, PhD

OUTSTANDING TEACHER Jennifer Freheit, PhD

2025 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESIDENCY MATCH HIGHLIGHTS

Through the 2025 Match, 245 MCW medical students obtained first-year residency positions.

2025 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE MATCH-RATE PERCENTAGES (CUMULATIVE AND BY CAMPUS)

Cumulative 98.8%

MKE **98.5**%

cw 100%

GB 100%

TOP SPECIALTIES AT EACH CAMPUS

MKE: Internal Medicine,

Emergency

Medicine, Surgery-

General

CW: Pediatrics, Psychiatry,

Internal Medicine

GB: Family Medicine,

Surgery General,

Pediatrics

A TOTAL OF 76
STUDENTS REMAINED
IN WISCONSIN FOR
PGY1 RESIDENCY
TRAINING

MKE: 31%

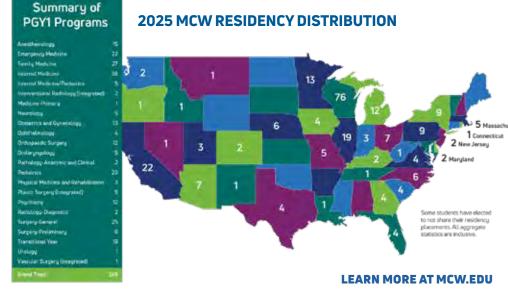
cw: 38%

GB: 28%





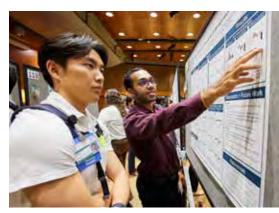




SCHOLARLY WORK IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE







SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATIONS AND MEDICAL STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CLASS OF 2025 PROJECTS:

94 students from the Milwaukee Class of 2025 reported bylines on 706 presentations and 443 authorship credits.

TOP TWO SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATIONS FOR 2024-2025:

Clinical to Translational Research

Clinician Educator

CLASS OF 2025 HONORS DESIGNATIONS:

Honors in Community Engagement 1

Honors in Global Health 3

Honors in Medical Education 4

Honors in Research 58

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT THE SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATIONS WEBPAGE.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Three students graduated with two degrees on the same day: MD and an MS in Clinical Translational Science, curriculum completed in just four years.

Students Enrolled in the 2025 Summer Program and Who Created Posters and Presented Their Scholarly Work in an In-Person Poster Session 161

School of Medicine Faculty Teaching Awards

TEACHING AWARD
Caitlin R. Patten, MD, FACS

HARRY BECKMAN BASIC SCIENCE TEACHING AWARD Ryan Hillmer, PhD MCWAH HOUSESTAFF AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING Mitchell Depke, MD Alexander Yoxall, MD

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY 2024-2025 DATA/STATISTICS



90%

Post-Graduate Year 1 (PGY1) Residency Match Rate

90% Includes three students who secured post-doctoral positions in the pharmaceutical industry

90%

Overall Post-Graduate Training Match Rate

DIRECT-TO-CAREER:

Number of scholarly works published 29

1/3 of 2025 graduates have chosen the direct-to-career pathway, securing or seeking employment in community pharmacy positions.

GRANTS OR FELLOWSHIP AWARDS:

Awards and Honors

4

Research Grants/ Awards/Contracts

10

Pharmacy Program Didactic Instructors of the Year

PY1 BIOPHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES:

Abhay Chauhan, PhD, MPharm, BPharm – Associate Professor

BIOPHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES:

Phil Mosier, PharmD - Assistant Professor

CLINICAL SCIENCES:

Mathew Letizia, PharmD – Director of Professional Laboratories – Year 1; Assistant Professor

CLINICAL SCIENCES:

Zach Hovis, PharmD, BCACP – Assistant Professor Pharmacy Practice

EXPERIENCE PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR

Jacob Dyer, PharmD – Assistant Professor

STUDENTS LIVING AND EMBRACING MCW'S VALUES

Advancing Inclusive Practices: Small Town Researcher Makes a Big Impact in Public Health



For Dr. Annika
Swenson, who
graduated from the
Medical College of
Wisconsin DrPH
program in May,
rural life is more
than a lifestyle – it's
shaped her identity
and purpose.

"I don't want to ever leave rural life because I feel such a sense of community," says Swenson, who lives in Mineral Point, Wisconsin. "I live in a town of 2,000 people and grew up in a town of 2,000 people."

Growing up in northern Wisconsin, Swenson witnessed how rural communities often face healthcare challenges – from long travel times to delayed or inaccessible care – with quiet resilience. These disparities hit home when her grandmother, who lived on a potato farm in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. With limited resources, she never received full treatment. Against the odds, she lived another eight years.

"Most people aren't that lucky," Swenson says. That reality fuels her passion for understanding what cancer care looks like for rural patients like her grandmother. **READ MORE>>**

Engaging in Collaborative Efforts: Alumna's Career Focus Motivated by Mother's Illness

Elizabeth M. Wendt, MD '20, MPH, has focused her education and career around providing care to the underserved, many of whom are facing health challenges. Her interest started at a young age, at the time that her mother's cancer returned.

Her mother, Madonna, was diagnosed with cancer at age 19; it returned 12 years later, when Dr. Wendt was a little girl. She remembers the impact of going with her mother to her doctors' appointments.

"From this experience, I became interested in providing good care to people going through difficult times," says Dr. Wendt. "Some of the lessons I learned then continue to impact my decisions and focus today – such as having a service mindset and helping the people whom the healthcare system had forgotten." READ MORE>>



Approaching Our World with Curiosity: Curiosity Fuels MCW Student's Path to Match Day

Adrienne Davis, who will graduate from the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in May, had a fitting nickname growing up.

"My nickname used to be 'Probey' because I was always getting into stuff," Davis says. "I really liked to tinker. I always had a love for being curious."

That curiosity led her to take things apart to see how they work, enjoy science kits and

watch shows like Untold Stories of the E.R. It even helped her make her first diagnosis after her friend got hurt while they jumped rope and they tried getting help from a teacher.

"I remember our teacher had told us that she was being dramatic. I told her, 'No, I can feel the fracture,'" she recalls.

The next day her friend came in with a cast. She had broken her ankle. **READ MORE>>**



Demonstrating Integrity in All We Do: Military Veteran and MCW Student Finds Inspiration in his Parents' Journey and the Opportunity to Serve Others

A career in medicine wasn't always the clear path for Geoffrey Carl Rodriguez, a third-year student at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). Raised in a low-income household in Los Angeles, Rodriguez is the son of Filipino immigrants who arrived in the U.S. in the 1990s, and faced numerous challenges as they navigated a new country.

"We grew up always struggling financially," Rodriguez recalls. "I grew up mostly on federal aid like food stamps and welfare."

His interest in healthcare began early on, influenced by his cousins who were nurses, the responsibility of caring for his disabled mother, and witnessing his grandmother's battle with



Alzheimer's. These personal experiences laid the foundation for a deep awareness of how health impacts quality of life.

"I became very aware at a young age how much health matters," Rodriguez says. "It sparked my interest in serving others, though I wasn't sure in what capacity." READ MORE>>

Acting in Caring Ways: Beginning Medical School as a New Mother at MCW

Anell Fissel
Corcoran would
rather give her all
and not succeed
than not take a
chance. "'If I'm going
to do this, I'm going
to do this," she says.
"If I'm going to fail,
I'm going to fail
doing my best."



Her latest challenge? Starting **MEDICAL SCHOOL** at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). At 38, she's older than most new medical students. She's a first-generation college student who has overcome a learning disability to achieve success in undergrad, post-baccalaureate programs, and the business sector. She also became a first-time mother just days before classes were scheduled to begin at MCW.

Fittingly, Corcoran chose to take the more challenging route.

Surprisingly – and heartwarmingly – classmates she barely knows have reached out to offer various types of support.

"People I have never met have come up to me and offered to babysit or do things for me," she says. "You feel really overwhelmed when someone offers to help – it's like your heart wants to start crying." **READ MORE>>**

Treating Everyone with Respect: School of Pharmacy Offers First International Clinical Rotation

The MCW **SCHOOL OF PHARMACY** has added a new **EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY** for students interested in reducing global health inequities. Established in fall 2024, the international Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) is offered in collaboration with **REFUGE INTERNATIONAL**, which organizes medical volunteer trips in Guatemala. The nonprofit focuses on bridging healthcare gaps in rural communities, especially for indigenous people with limited access to medical care.

Adam Crouse, a 2025 PharmD candidate, was the first MCW pharmacy student to participate in an international APPE rotation. He traveled with Stacy Reid, PharmD, BCPS, MCW assistant dean of experiential education and assistant professor, to San Raymundo, Guatemala, in October 2024. Residents in this remote region face limited

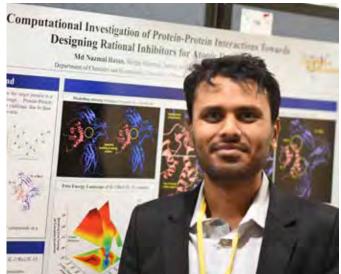
healthcare access and common health issues such as malnutrition, infectious diseases, limited maternal care and language barriers (for those who speak Spanish or the local Mayan dialect). READ MORE>>



STUDENTS' COMMITMENT TO LIVING MCW'S VALUES IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND

















































knowledge changing life