



**Nevada
Area
Health
Education
Centers**

Ross Hall 209
School of Medicine
University of Nevada
Reno, Nevada 89557
(702) 784-1317
FAX (702) 784-6096

Jan. 2, 1990

Release: immediately

For more information: Ann Diggins, community relations coordinator, 784-1317

Medical student learns about rural medicine from local doctor

ELKO--Dr. Cal Lewis began working this month with the first of five medical students he will work with this year teaching them about the practice of medicine in a rural community through rotations coordinated by Area Health Education Centers.

Karl Espinosa, who will graduate this spring from the University of Nevada School of Medicine, plans to specialize in family practice and work in a small community. Espinosa said family practice interested him because of the broad range of patients a physician treats.

"There is such diversity," he said. "You practice pediatrics to geriatrics to surgery to obstetrics and gynecology."

He added that while he has enjoyed the time he has spent in all the speciality areas -- students are required to do multi-week rotations in most of the major specialities -- he said some are so specialized a doctor treats only a very small group of people.

"I can do the most good for the broadest spectrum of people through family practice," Espinosa said.

He is particularly looking forward to his time in Elko where he said he hopes to gain a "greater appreciation for small town life and the limits of medicine in a small community."

All of Espinosa's time spent with physicians has given him an appreciation of the hard work that goes into the job, he said.

The first in his family to go into medicine, he acknowledged that he had many

misperceptions about a doctor's life.

"They work a lot harder than I expected," he said.

Espinosa began his rotation in Elko Jan. 2 and is staying with a local resident that has volunteered a room in her home for students.

AHEC works in partnership with the University of Nevada School of Medicine to provide support services for health professionals in rural Nevada as well as learning opportunities for students.