

NEWS RELEASE



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UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF NEVADA

Med school earns national recognition

Lynne Williams, medical school information
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The University of Nevada School of Medicine has been awarded its third Bronze Achievement Award by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

The AAFP honored 19 medical schools nationwide for their efforts to increase the nation's supply of family physicians. The awards were initiated three years ago to honor accredited medical schools that have a high percentage of graduates who enter accredited family practice residency programs; Nevada's award was for "outstanding success in efforts resulting in a three-year average of 23.9" based on the period from 1992 to 1994. In the 1995 graduating class, 32 percent are going into family practice; and new changes have been integrated into the curriculum which will encourage even more students to make this choice in the future.

These changes occurred after the medical school competed for and won a \$750,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as part of Generalist Physician Initiative. The Foundation established the Initiative in order to increase the supply of primary care physicians in the country.

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According to the Association, "Family physicians are in high demand in many areas of the country, because broad-based training equips them to handle nine out of ten of their patients' medical conditions." Nevada also has a great need for family physicians to take care of its burgeoning population in the urban areas, and as an ongoing need in its rural communities.

The AAFP is a 82,000-member national specialty association representing family physicians, family practice residents and medical students.