

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TRUST Program *Targeted Rural Underserved Track* Lewistown, MT ~ ~ Summer 2010



Hi Lewistown!

My name is Crystal. I am an entering WWAMI medical student that will be spending time in Lewistown as part of the TRUST program! I am honored to be part of this unique program, as it has always been my hope to return to a place similar to the one in which I was raised. I am originally from Conrad, MT. While some say that Montana is "The Last Best Place", it has always been "My First Best Place." My happiest memories have always involved my whole extended family, a convoy of vehicles, and the winding roads that led us to fresh mountain air!

My interest in medicine began at an early age, with my childhood being spent in and out of hospitals. My positive outlook on this difficult situation can undoubtedly be attributed to the heroic impact my doctors and nurses had on me during this time. After graduating from Conrad High, this interest in medicine became a passion when I acquired my C.N.A. license and spent the summer working at the nursing home in Conrad. I continued my role as caregiver during my college years and beyond, working with companies including A Plus Health Care, Home Care Services, and Caregivers Northwest.

I acquired my bachelor's degree in Cell Biology and Neuroscience with a concentration on Biomedical Sciences from MSU. During my four years in Bozeman, I supplemented my studies with activities including the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life and CAP mentoring. After my sophomore year at MSU, I was fortunate enough to take part in an International Service Learning program, where I was part of a small team of students volunteering under a local Belizean doctor. We set up make-shift clinics in old schools and churches, and provided medical care to the underserved population in the St. Matthews and Cotton Tree villages of Belize. I gained valuable shadowing hours here, as well as back in the states under physicians at Pondera Medical Center in Conrad and at the Elkhart General Hospital in Indiana.

My upbringing and experiences have made me aware that my heart remains in the rural communities of Montana. I hope to serve the generations of family members that keep towns like ours thriving. Thank you for welcoming me to Lewistown! I am so pleased to be part of this experience and I look forward to the days ahead!

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**Please welcome
Crystal Zomer**

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**1st Year
Medical
Student
University of
Washington
School of
Medicine**

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