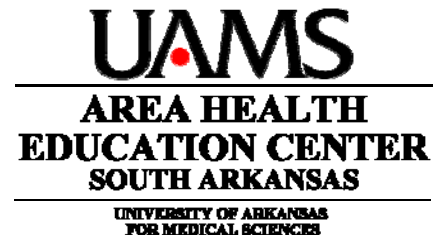




THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
RURAL HEALTH
PROFESSIONS

1601 Parkview Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61107
Tel: 815.395.5780
Fax: 815.395.5781



University of Illinois College of
Medicine at Rockford
IRB Approval
05/17/08 through 01/16/09

Dear Rural Hospital CEO:

We are collaborating on a project to better understand rural health workforce issues in the U.S. We obtained your contact information from the Area Health Education Center organization for the area where your hospital is located.

We request that you complete the enclosed survey and return it to us using the self-addressed envelope or fax back to us at **815-395-5781**

Your response will not be used individually and only summary results will be presented, similar to earlier work we conducted (see format of the pilot study: (Glasser M, Peters K, MacDowell M. Rural Illinois Hospital Chief Executive Officers' Perceptions of Provider Shortages and Issues in Rural Recruitment and Retention. *J. Rural Health* 22(1):59-62, 2006).

We would like to publish the results of the present study in the *Journal of Rural Health* and provide a summary in NRHA publications. We hope the results will help inform national policy related to rural health workforce development.

There are no known risks related to completion of the survey. By completing and returning the survey, you are indicating that you give informed consent and indicating you are voluntarily completing the survey. Please return by mail using the enclosed self-addressed envelope or fax back to us at **815-395-5781**.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Martin MacDowell, Dr.P.H.
Research Assoc. Professor
University of IL at Rockford
mmacd@uic.edu

Michael Glasser, Ph.D.
Associate Dean
University of IL at Rockford
michaelg@uic.edu

Michael Fitts, Psy. D.
Assistant Professor
AHEC South AR, UAMS
mfitts@ahcsa.uams.edu

If you have questions, Dr. MacDowell may be called at 815-395-5579 or
| Dr. Mike Fitts at 870-881-4414