



NEWS FROM ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine – Southern Utah Welcomes Class of 2023 with White Coat Ceremony

[September 25, 2019 - Ivins, UT] Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine – Southern Utah (RVUCOM-SU) held its White Coat Ceremony at the Tuacahn Center for the Arts in Ivins, Utah on Saturday, September 21st.

The White Coat Ceremony is a medical school tradition that welcomes new students as they embark on their journey towards practice in the medical field. Keynote speaker Mark Briesacher, MD, spoke to the students about the challenges they will face in healthcare and the importance of always putting their patients first. “Care for them, serve them, [and] listen to them. I know, as a patient myself, I really want to be seen...when I’m receiving care.” As the Senior Vice President and Chief Physician Executive at Intermountain Healthcare, Dr. Briesacher has advanced the organization’s long-standing efforts to be a leader in care that is centered on patient safety, quality, extraordinary experiences, great access, and affordability.

The ceremony was emceed by David J. Park, DO, FAAFP, FACP, Vice President and Dean for the Southern Utah Campus. Esteemed speakers included Clinton E. Adams, DO, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer of RVU; Thomas N. Told, DO, FACP, Dean of RVUCOM; Ben Wilde, DO, Vice Chair of the Department of Primary Care Medicine; and Chris Hart, Mayor of Ivins.

Upon being coated by faculty members, the students recited the vision statement that they as a class had written. In it, they pledged to “foster a diverse environment that will enrich our ability to become innovators in holistic care. For ourselves, for our families, for our patients, for our communities, for the science, for the art, for the medicine.”

The Class of 2023 is comprised of 133 students from 19 different states (43% are from Utah), with 12% of the class being first-generation college students. These elite students were selected from a competitive applicant pool of 5,168 candidates. The class is made up of 68% males and 32% females with ages ranging from 22 to 47 years old. The mean MCAT score was 506, and the average cumulative GPA for the class was 3.61.

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RVU is a health-sciences university based in Parker, Colorado and Ivins, Utah. RVU was founded in 2006 and opened its doors in August of 2008, enrolling students in its four-year program of study leading to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree in the University's College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVUCOM). The Ivins Campus matriculated its first class in 2017. RVU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a commission of the North Central Association. RVUCOM is accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). RVU has also added a Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences (MSBS) degree program and a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) to its Colorado location. Rocky Vista University provides quality healthcare education while inspiring students to serve with compassion, integrity and excellence. For more information, visit www.rvu.edu.