

Due to pandemic restrictions during the school year of 2020-2021, Center for Rural Health staff members were unable to visit schools in person for activities, or bring groups to campus as staff normally would do. However, staff members were able to maintain some contact virtually with the schools as follows:

- Center for Rural Health staff worked with schools in 14 counties, reaching about 400 students, via a variety of individual and group virtual events, including a statewide virtual college fair, Zoom meetings with students during class time, and presenting at partners' virtual events. The Center also communicated via social media when possible to teachers such as with the West Virginia Science Teachers Association.
- The Center collaborates with multiple organizations to reach rural, minority and underserved students for the pipeline. This pipeline helps to identify candidates for the Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Medicine (BS/MD) program. For example, a Center for Rural Health staff member served as keynote speaker for the Concord University Upward Bound virtual regional meeting in Fall 2020 geared toward minority and underserved students, and spoke again at their summer academy in June and July 2021.
- Finally, Center for Rural Health staff members tried to maintain connections with internal pipeline partners as well as with teachers even though work with students was limited. For example, Center for Rural Health staff members presented virtually with Marshall Physics faculty about pipeline collaboration to the American Association of Physics Teachers, Appalachian division, in Spring 2021.