

SCHOLAR

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 was first awarded in 1993 by the Pisacano Leadership Foundation. The foundation's namesake is the late Dr. Nicholas Pisacano, a physician who helped create the American Board of Family Practice, the certifying board for family practitioners, in 1969, and headed the board for 20 years.

The scholarship West received recognizes not only a high standing in his class but also his efforts to promote the practice of family medicine. West has taken steps such as developing the Family Medicine Interest Group Mentorship Program, which connects first-year medical students interested in family medicine with OHSU students who have family medicine residencies. He also helped found the OHSU Dean's Student Rural Advisory Group, a program to help guide OHSU policy and programs for rural medical education.

West was earlier named to the Rural Scholars Program at OHSU and was the only member of his class selected to participate in the Oregon FIRST (Family Medicine Integrated Rural Student Training) program. Oregon FIRST students spend their fourth year of medical school in Klamath Falls training with residents at the Cascades East Family Medicine Clinic. West hopes to begin a three-year residency at this clinic about a year from now.

West began developing programs to encourage students to look into rural family medicine because he noticed that few of his classmates were pursuing practicing in rural communities.

"I wanted them to know that it was a career and lifestyle they might like," said West, who graduated from Imbler High School in 2009 and from Oregon State University in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in bio-resource research.

He said doctors coming to rural communities to practice family medicine fill an important void.

"There is such a strong need for doctors for rural communities," West said.

There is also a need for specialists in fields like cardiology and obstetrics.

"Rural communities are screaming for different specialists," he said.

West has chosen to pursue a career in family medicine rather than be a specialist because of the diversity it provides. He said that as a family medicine physician he has to know about cardiology, obstetrics, orthopedics and more. West likes being responsible for knowing a lot about a wide range of medical subjects.

"It is kind of endless," he said. "I like the challenge to keep learning."

The medical student said that he isn't suited to be a specialist.

"Some people are wired so that they want to study one thing and know absolutely everything about it," West said. "I would get burned out studying just one organ or system."

West became interested in becoming a family medicine physician during his freshman year at Oregon State University when he attended the funeral of his grandfather Robert "Doc" West, who was a family medicine doctor in Cut Bank, Montana, for 19 years and later in California. Nick West was struck by how deeply his grandfather had touched the lives of his patients.

"The testimonies (from his patients) were pretty incredible," he said.

West, later as a OHSU medical student, served a six-month clerkship with family medicine physicians at Winding Waters Clinic in

Enterprise. That is when he knew for certain that family medicine was in his future.

"I fell in love with it," he said.

The medical student, who is in the top 25th percentile of his class, credits much of his success to the community he grew up in, the Imbler School District and his parents, Russ and Mary West.

"I had a great upbringing," he said.

His father retired as a circuit judge for Union and Wallowa counties earlier this year, and his mother was a teacher at Imbler High School who now serves as a substitute teacher. Nick said his mom taught him math and science at Imbler High School, giving him a foundation that serves him well today.

"That is the same stuff I am studying now but on a deeper level," he said.

His classmates at OHSU include Pedro Abdala, who is also a 2009 IHS graduate and is earning a medical degree. West said Abdala, who entered OHSU a year after he did, lived with him and his wife, Alex, who is from Salem, during his first year of medical school.

"It was a lot of fun," West said.

The future family medicine physician hopes to someday return to his roots and practice in Union County.

"I would love to end up back home," he said.

FOREST

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 he would push for support at the beginning of the new year.

"This is a stand-alone bill. Let's start talking now to build that bipartisan coalition and reintroduce it with a new Congress," Merkley said.

Merkley's bill would provide \$1 billion in stable

funding and allow the Forest Service to increase the pace and scale of fuels reduction. It would also create a county stewardship fund, paying counties equal to 25 percent of stewardship contract receipts on federal land within their counties, permanently reauthorize the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and allow more projects to receive

funding in a given fiscal year.

According to Merkley, 1.6 million acres in Oregon alone have been through environmental analysis and are ready for thinning, but there is no money for the staffing.

"We could put people to work tomorrow if we had the resources to do so," Merkley said.

Merkley said between

1998 and 2016, the number of Forest Service firefighters grew by 6,000 while other management areas, like timber sale preparation and fuels reduction decreased by 7,000.

"Let's do what people keep telling us at town halls across the state," Merkley said. "Let's spend more on the front end to see the savings on the back end."




Darryl Sandberg, PA
Board Certified

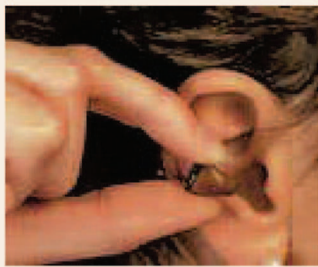
Please join us in welcoming Darryl to Union County.

Darryl provides Primary Care for patients at the GRH Union Clinic
 142 E. Dearborn St. Union, OR
 541.562.6180 — more info at grh.org

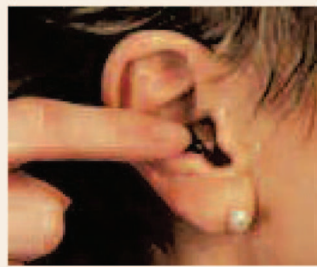
Darryl Sandberg comes to Oregon from a clinical practice in Colorado. Prior to that he spent two years as Brigade Physician Assistant for the U.S. Army Airborne & Ranger Training Brigade, Fort Benning, GA. Darryl has an extensive U.S. Army service record, serving in various capacities and multiple deployments from 2008 through 2016. In 2007, he received his Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, Illinois.

Darryl is Board Certified. 

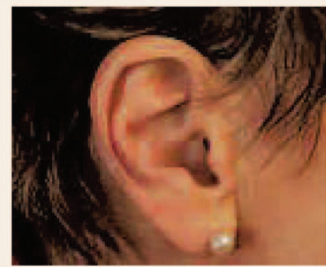
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