

AMEC

ALABAMA MEDICAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

The mission of the Alabama Medical Education Consortium (AMEC) is to establish and maintain an osteopathic primary care physician pipeline for rural and underserved Alabama.

Dear Colleagues:

It is with great pleasure that the first annual report of the Alabama Medical Education Consortium (AMEC) is published. AMEC officially began in October, 2005 when funds were made available through appropriations by the Alabama legislature and other sources. This report is presented publicly as a result of AMEC's commitment to being a transparent organization. We invite your review and comments on the first year's progress described in this report.

AMEC is the tangible result of numerous meetings and discussions beginning in 2003. These meetings focused on identifying the most promising methods for successfully addressing the continuing shortage of primary care physicians in rural Alabama. Valiant efforts to find remedies for this situation have been attempted over the last 40 years. Unfortunately, the situation continues being a major barrier to health care access while limiting opportunities for economic growth in rural communities.

AMEC is gaining national recognition as a 21st Century model for addressing a complex, national issue: producing primary care physicians to practice where they are needed. Its commitment to community based teaching sites provides a compelling strategy which is efficient and effective in producing and placing primary care physicians in areas of greatest need. Most of AMEC's structure is now operational; however, refinements will be required for it to develop as planned into an organization that is flexible, transparent and responsive to community needs.

Many instate and out of state people and organizations have participated in planning and building the AMEC Pipeline. It is with great excitement that we continue to develop this pipeline with both old and new partners. Three special acknowledgements are deserved. The Alabama legislature boldly supported public funding for AMEC and several of its prominent leaders defended this action. The President and administration of the University of West Alabama was an early proponent of the AMEC plan and the institution serves as AMEC's umbrella agency. The President/ CEO as well as officers of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama's Caring Foundation continue providing encouragement, counsel, and funding in support of the AMEC mission. On behalf of rural and underserved Alabamians their vision and commitment to our state is acknowledged with gratefulness. **AMEC is an idea whose time has come.**

Sincerely,

Wil Baker

Wil Baker
Executive Director