

UAMS – Northwest (A satellite for UAMS)

UAMS –Northwest will help address the growing shortage of healthcare workers in the state. Otherwise, there will simply not be enough doctors, nurses, pharmacists and technologist to take care of our growing and aging population.

UAMS-NWA represents an expansion of several important programs at UAMS:

- College of Medicine
- College of Pharmacy
- College Nursing
- College of Health Related Professions

UAMS-NW is not a “second medical school” for the state of Arkansas. And it will not be a duplication of services or programs; rather, it is an expansion of the state’s health education system and is the most economical way for Arkansas to educate, train and graduate more healthcare professionals.

In the College of Medicine, UAMS is anticipating a 33% increase in its class size in Little Rock by 2012. The entire class will remain on the main campus in Little Rock for their first 2 years. A portion of the 3rd and 4th year students will attend classes and clinical rotations of UAMS-NW in Fayetteville. The College of Nursing through collaborations is able to increase the class size by 40% in undergraduates and provide the structure to increase the number of nurse educators which are so badly needed. The satellite campus will enable UAMS to increase the class size of the college of Pharmacy by 62%.

Northwest Arkansas was identified as the site after a 9 month study provided data that this location was identified as the state’s fastest growing region and had sufficient numbers of potential clinical partners – local hospitals, clinics, physicians and pharmacies. These entities are critical for the student’s education and experience in treating real patients in supervised settings. Little Rock and central Arkansas serve the main UAMS campus well, but most clinical training sites are at capacity.

Washington County is leasing the former Washington Regional hospital space to UAMS-NW for \$1 a year (for 330,000 square feet of building valued at \$58-60 million). The building will be renovated for classrooms, administration, housing of the Area Health Education Center Northwest (AHEC-NW) and student/residents support services. Over \$3M has been raised through local philanthropy for the initial renovations.

Local partnerships and collaborations are underway with the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, the federal Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, the State of Arkansas-Fayetteville Veterans Home; the Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC), Washington Regional Medical Center, Northwest medical Center, and Regency Hospital of Northwest Arkansas.

Summary of reasons for UAMS-NW satellite campus

- Aging and underserved population in Arkansas – greater need for more healthcare professionals.
- Growing number of aging/retiring doctors, nurses, pharmacists, etc. We need to be producing the next generation of this crucial workforce and workforce instructors.
- UAMS-NW is not a “second medical school” and does not duplicate existing programs; it is the expansion of existing programs at UAMS.
- Having a portion of the 3rd and 4th year students in Fayetteville will allow for a 33% enrollment increase in medical school enrollment in Little Rock.
- Important partnership and collaborations with University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, the federal Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, the State of Arkansas- Fayetteville Veterans Home and the Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC).
- Washington Co. is leasing space to UAMS-NW for \$1 a year (commercial real estate value of \$58-60 million).
- Local philanthropic support of \$3 million to date to renovate the building.
- Education expansion includes students in medicine, nursing, pharmacy and allied health.