



## **MONTANA WWAMI MEDICAL STUDENT**

Participating in  
Rural/Underserved Opportunity (RUOP)  
in Dillon

A medical student from the University of Washington School of Medicine will be doing a one month clinical rotation in Dillon from June 5 through July 2, 2011. The medical student, Samantha Dooley, has just completed the first year of medical school with the WWAMI Medical Education Program at Montana State University in Bozeman. Samantha is from Bozeman, MT, and attended undergraduate school at Bethel University in St. Paul, MN. The student will be working under the supervision of Dr. Hansen, a Family Practice with OB physician at Barrett Hospital and Healthcare Clinic.

The medical student clinical rotation program, Rural/Underserved Opportunities (R/UOP) Program, is a long-term initiative of the University of Washington School of Medicine in collaboration with the Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) and WWAMI Medical Education programs in Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. The purpose of R/UOP is to provide opportunities for medical students to learn about the practice of medicine in rural communities from a local physician, gain perspective of the health care delivery systems in small rural towns and gain an understanding of the culture of rural and frontier communities. The long-term goal is that many of the R/UOP students will make decisions to practice medicine in rural and/or underserved areas following completion of medical school and residency training.

The South Central Montana AHEC is one of four regional AHECs in Montana. The regional AHECs work with the Montana AHEC Program Office and the WWAMI Medical Education Program at Montana State University to address health professions workforce needs throughout the state. Lisa Benzel, Director of the South Central Montana AHEC, provides assistance to medical students doing R/UOP rotations, including location of housing, information about the community and ideas for student research projects. Ms. Benzel also coordinates the R/UOP rotations with Dr. Jay Erickson, Montana WWAMI Clinical Director and Assistant Dean at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Thirty medical students will be participating with R/UOP in Montana during the summer of 2011.