

RVUCOM Hosts “International Visitor Leadership Program”

On Wednesday, September 09, 2009, Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVUCOM) hosted the U.S. Department of State- sponsored International Visitor Leadership Program. The program which was designed as a cross-cultural educational experience brought together emerging leaders in medicine and science from 22 foreign countries including Syria, People’s Republic of China, Burma, Sweden, India, Malta, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Oman, Argentina and others. During a three week travel itinerary which began in Washington, D.C., the group visited several American cities meeting with educators, businesses and health care professionals. Denver was the final stop on their tour. Since the theme for the program was “Public Safety: Preparing for Potential Pandemic Disease”, most of the Leadership Program participants who visited RVUCOM were either physicians or other health-care professionals. For many of the visitors, the International Visitor Leadership Program offered the opportunity to visit the United States and particularly Colorado for the first time.

Upon their arrival at the campus, the program participants were greeted by RVUCOM Student Ambassadors, Zea Moullet the University’s Director of Student Services and Michael Martin, PhD, Associate Dean of Student Services. Dr. Martin was instrumental in arranging for the group’s visit to RVUCOM.

The group attended a series of presentations in the school’s Anatomy Theater where they were officially welcomed by Robert Black, Esq. RVUCOM Interim President and Thomas Mohr, D.O., Interim Dean and Chief Academic Officer. The guests were briefed by Dr. Mohr on the founding of the school, the history of osteopathic medicine and the school’s application of the osteopathic medical philosophy. These topics triggered a wide-ranging discussion between the group members and Dr. Mohr regarding the current state and future of health care in the United States, the role of primary care physicians in the health care mix and the types of challenges faced in the delivery of medical care to rural communities and other diverse populations.

The group also heard presentations regarding how local institutions plan to respond to pandemics and a description of the process of coordinating planning among affiliated health care organizations and rural sites. The visit culminated with a tour of the campus conducted by the RVUCOM Student Ambassadors.

The International Visitor Leadership Program has been in existence for more than 50 years. During that time the program has been able to identify several distinguished leaders on the world stage as having been alumni. Notable among program participants who have gone on to achieve world leadership positions include Indira Gandhi, Anwar Sadat, Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair.

The International Visitor Leadership Program is focused on creating opportunities for leaders and specialists from around the world to interact with their counterparts in the United States and to interact, in general, with U.S. society. Each of the individuals who are part of this group has been recognized as an emerging leader in their field within their respective country. Prospective participants in the program cannot apply for inclusion --they must be invited. Invitations to visit the United States as participants in the International Visitor Leadership Program are extended by American Foreign

Service Officers working within the U. S. embassies. U. S. State Department representatives tour with the groups who typically spend up to three weeks in the country. During the past year nearly 400 officially-sponsored International Visitor Leadership Program participants have visited Denver.