NMU National Rural Health Day Scholarship

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10-13-21

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Flashing red and blue sirens were never heard or seen where I lived, back in the rural part of town and when I did it was a strange phenomenon. When I moved across the street from my hometown’s hospital I see the sirens every day and night. I never knew how much Emergency Medical Services worked until I moved. Watching the helicopters come in almost every week is amazing to me and being able to catch sight of these strong, hard-working men and women fighting to save people’s lives is truly astounding. If it were to come to one day where communities don't have these EMTs, the world would be chaotic.

As a resident of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, these are some of my ideas as to how Emergency Medical Service agencies and communities can interact to build and strengthen relationships that could further the enhancement of recruitment, retention, and overall success of the EMS personnel.

As a high school Senior, I have had the opportunity to become CNA certified in under 8 months. If a program like this were taught in my community this could bring many interests to people who would like to pursue a career in EMS without having to travel to a more populated area. If my town of under 2,000 residents were to not have EMS services, the people here would be in a critical situation. Many people in my town do not have jobs due to either Covid-19, getting laid off, or not being able to find one. Unfortunately, my hometown hospital has just closed off the Long Term Care portion of the building, meaning that there are now 29 healthcare workers who do not have a job anymore. The EMTs are already short staffed and could use plenty of help, this program could provide many job opportunities for people who like the medical field but never got to experience it first-hand. Being a CNA has given me a solid foundation for my future medical career and this program would do the same as well for others.

Secondly, colleges could come and speak about their EMT program for those who would like to do it in person or online. Colleges frequently travel to high schools but there are still adults who either did not go to college or wish to pursue another career. So many adults still do not know what they want to do in life, the average number of careers someone will change is 5-7 times. Being notified of the college course could make the people in the community interested in being an EMT.

Overall, the world is in desperate need of EMTs. Providing these opportunities for more people to get informed about being an EMT is very substantial and critical. This could benefit many small communities in job outlook and the ability to save people’s lives while having a job they love.