



# IUP: Ready to Address Pennsylvania's Rural Healthcare Crisis



Indiana University of Pennsylvania

# A College of Osteopathic Medicine at IUP: Right Time, Right Fit, Right Mission



Our nation—and especially rural Pennsylvania—is in a healthcare crisis. There are simply not enough healthcare providers, particularly primary care physicians.

At IUP, we hear this as a call to action, and we are responding by establishing a college of osteopathic medicine.

It's part of our mission. We were founded as a teaching college, and our responsibility to shape and educate tomorrow's leaders is our North Star.

As a proud public institution, we believe in our duty to provide talented and promising students with affordable access. It is our job to address challenges facing the commonwealth and the world beyond. There is no school or college of osteopathic medicine at a public university in Pennsylvania, and there are only three of these schools in the state.

We've chosen a college of osteopathic medicine because those graduates are more likely to pursue primary care in rural and underserved areas. We will focus on recruiting academically talented, compassionate, and service-oriented students, some of whom will be from those rural, medically underserved regions. A college of osteopathic medicine makes good business sense, too. These colleges are significant economic drivers for their communities and regions. IUP's proposed college is estimated to have an economic impact of \$67 million annually.

The IUP spirit, resolve, and drive—focused on a true commitment to our students and to making a difference in our world by creating extraordinary leaders—are strong. We have 150 years of history to prove that.

Addressing the need for healthcare providers is not something we put off until tomorrow. We need to do something now.

Will you join us?

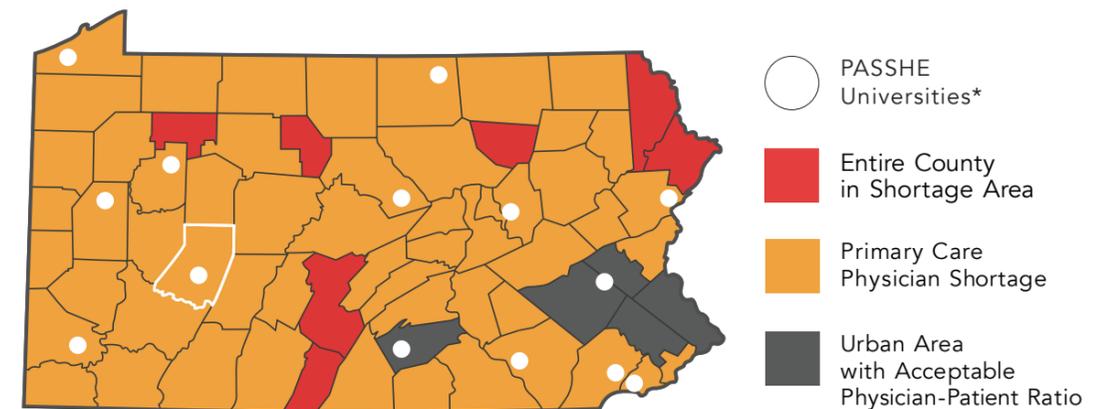
Michael A. Driscoll  
IUP President

# The Problem: Too Few Rural Physicians and a Widening Gap



## The Rural Disadvantage

Pennsylvania is in the midst of an acute and worsening rural healthcare crisis. There are not enough physicians to care for Pennsylvania's citizens, especially in rural communities. Seven rural counties in Pennsylvania are without a hospital.



\* Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

- ♦ Urban counties in the state have nearly twice as many physicians per resident.
- ♦ There are 23 percent more hospital beds available per capita in urban areas.

# A Solution: IUP is committed to rural healthcare with the establishment of a college of osteopathic medicine.



"IUP's college of osteopathic medicine will focus on identifying, recruiting, and educating those hidden healthcare heroes who may not even realize their own potential to become our next generation of physicians. We will carefully refine and document our successes, creating a revolutionary national model for scouting and bolstering future healthcare leaders, especially for our rural communities."

Miko Rose, DO, FNAOME  
Founding Dean, IUP Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine

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IUP has the infrastructure in place to support this initiative: a commitment to research, teaching excellence, and programs that complement this training.

IUP also has a well-developed fundraising arm and support from alumni and community leaders, including legislators, to address the new funding required for a college of osteopathic medicine.

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## What Is a DO?

Doctors of osteopathic medicine, or DOs, complete four years of osteopathic medical school, with an emphasis on preventive medicine and comprehensive patient care. They are trained to recognize the interrelated unity among all systems of the body, each working with the other to promote overall health and wellness.



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IUP opened John J. and Char Kopchick Hall, its \$90-million science building, in January 2024. It has already become the epicenter of our STEM work. IUP also has identified the location for its health sciences cluster, which will include the proposed college of osteopathic medicine, in its long-range facilities master plan. IUP's health services departments and programs are housed in a new college, the College of Health Sciences, which is in addition to the proposed college of osteopathic medicine.

# Educating More Rural Physicians



“This college of osteopathic medicine will be a good opportunity for health science undergraduates who desire the value of a public university education, but the true beneficiaries will be the citizens and patients of Pennsylvania.”

Douglas Kupas, MD  
Board-Certified Emergency Medicine Physician  
IUP Class of '86



**22,708**

students competed for 8,280 spots in schools of osteopathic medicine in 2021.

**36,500**

students wanted to enroll in an osteopathic medicine school in 2023.

**3**

colleges of osteopathic medicine in Pennsylvania (all at private institutions)

**40**

colleges of osteopathic medicine in the nation are accredited by the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA).

**4x**

Physicians trained in osteopathic medicine are four times more likely than students in allopathic (MD) medicine to select primary care specialties.

**2x**

DOs (Doctors of osteopathic medicine) are twice as likely as MDs to practice in rural areas.

Osteopathic medical schools have a long tradition of serving rural communities. Physicians who are trained in osteopathic medicine are **four times more likely** to select primary care specialties, like family medicine, and almost **twice as likely** to practice in rural areas as allopathic (MD) students are. IUP's curriculum will have a completely osteopathic-focused foundation, tailored to meet the needs of the commonwealth's citizens, especially in its rural communities, creating a revolutionary model for rural healthcare training.

# IUP's College of Osteopathic Medicine: An Economic Driver



When IUP's college of osteopathic medicine is fully operational, it will directly and indirectly support 420 jobs in the region.

**\$67 million**  
in total economic impact per year

**\$3 million**  
in new annual state and local government revenue

**\$200,000**  
in annual economic impact on the community during the first two years of each resident's training

**\$2.3 million**  
in annual economic benefit to each physician's home community

If only 60 percent of IUP college of osteopathic medicine graduates stay in Pennsylvania to practice, it will create

**\$1.3 billion**  
in annual state economic impact

**7,800**  
new jobs annually

Source: Tripp Umbach 2022 Pre-feasibility study for Indiana University of Pennsylvania

# Beyond the Dollars: Improving Vitality and Quality of Life



A college of osteopathic medicine will be a great source of pride for IUP, for our community—including alumni and friends—and for the commonwealth. It will enhance IUP's reputation and is predicted to increase enrollment at IUP and throughout Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

People want to live and work in communities with access to healthcare. As new healthcare professionals begin to practice, businesses will benefit from a healthier and more robust workforce, with reduced sick days and increased productivity.

Colleges of osteopathic medicine in other communities have been shown to inspire "spillover" economic development.

For example:

- Biomedical companies are started
- New healthcare companies are attracted to the region
- Research sparks technology transfer, commercialization, and economic value through improvements in prevention, treatment, and practice

**\$4 million**  
in annual visitor spending in the local community, because of a college of osteopathic medicine

# College of Osteopathic Medicine Projected Timeline\*

## 2023 (completed)

- Hire the founding dean
- Initiate accreditation process with the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA)

## 2024 (completed)

- Hire associate deans
- Identify possible college of osteopathic medicine facilities
- Initial clinical partners in place

## 2025 (completed)

- Begin planning and design process for facilities designated for college of osteopathic medicine
- Begin to hire faculty and staff

## 2026 (in progress)

- Secure accreditation status to begin recruiting students
- Continue to hire faculty, staff, and key administrators
- Complete design and construction of medical facilities

## 2027

- Welcome first class of students

## 2031

- First class graduates to enter residency

\*Steps are dependent on approval from COCA and are subject to change.

# Prepared and Ready



### IUP has the infrastructure in place to support this initiative:

- ♦ A commitment to research and teaching excellence and programs that complement this training. Thirty percent of IUP students are already enrolled in STEM-healthcare programs.
- ♦ One of 93 public universities in the nation with a High Research Activity (R2) designation by the Center for Postsecondary Research's Carnegie Classification.
- ♦ Well-established and growing partnerships with local and regional hospitals, already resulting in agreements for clinical training sites for osteopathic medicine students.
- ♦ A strong fundraising arm and passionate support from alumni, community leaders, and legislators to secure the funding required for the project. As of October 2024, more than \$30 million had been secured for the project.
- ♦ Founding Dean Miko Rose, a doctor of osteopathic medicine who specializes in psychiatry and who is nationally known for her wellness programming, joined the project in November 2023; founding associate deans Ryan Smith and Luke Mortensen joined her team in 2024.
- ♦ IUP has formally initiated steps toward accreditation from the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA).

# Your Support Is Essential

“Establishing a successful college of osteopathic medicine at IUP will be transformative—not only to IUP, but to our region and to our commonwealth. We all need to do our part to make this happen.”

Rich Caruso '83  
Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient  
First Million-Dollar Donor for Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Governors

After careful study and data analysis and months of thoughtful discussion with community and university stakeholders, in December 2022, the IUP Council of Trustees approved moving forward with the exploration of a college of osteopathic medicine at IUP.

Establishing this college will require new investment and new funding sources from the state, federal earmarks, and private, corporate, and foundation donors. IUP is fully committed to this initiative, but we can't do this alone—we need you.

### Specifically, funding is needed in these areas:

**\$38 million**  
escrow deposit

**\$25 million**  
in facility repurposing and upgrades

**\$39 million**  
in operational costs until the college of osteopathic medicine becomes self-supporting in 2031



## Contact Information

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## For more information, visit:

[IUP.edu/proposedCOM](http://IUP.edu/proposedCOM)

“Imagine not having access to doctors and quality healthcare for you and your family, traveling miles and miles to try to get the right care, but you’re not in time— just because of where you live or who you are. The need for great, dedicated primary care physicians, especially in rural communities, is fundamental for the future health, safety, and well-being of all patients and families, and this access is at critical risk. IUP’s proposed college of osteopathic medicine will help to open doors of opportunity to promising and talented physicians to meet the primary care physician workforce needs of our commonwealth and our nation.”

Bergitta Cotroneo '80  
Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient  
Chief Operating Officer, American College of Physicians

“I commend IUP for the bold step in establishing this college of osteopathic medicine. Not only will this endeavor provide a public university option for those wanting to enter the medical field, but it will also serve as an investment to deliver increased rural healthcare offerings across Pennsylvania.”

Joe Pittman  
Pennsylvania Senate Majority Leader, 41st District



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