

Rural eMentoring BC:

Sparkling and supporting youth interest in rural healthcare careers

Background

Rural communities face chronic shortages of healthcare practitioners. Supporting and inspiring rural youth to pursue healthcare careers could encourage them to return to their communities to practice.

Approach

Online Mentoring for Rural Youth

Asynchronous messaging via online platform

Pairs follow a semi-structured curriculum; prepares youth for life after high school

Results



Impact on Rural Youth

- Sparks interest in healthcare careers
- Helps with post-secondary transition
- Learning professional skills

Mentor Outcomes

- Professional growth
- Rural exposure
- Over 1/3 returned each year

“My mentor helped me better understand the different elements of healthcare and gave me a clearer understanding of what I could/will do following high school.”

- **Grade 10 mentee**

Mentees

- 600+ rural youths
- 20+ schools
- Grades 7-12

Mentors

- Post-secondary students
- Near-peers
- 400+ volunteers

Mentors - mentees matched based on shared career goals

Conclusions

- Increases access to role models
 - Built trusting relationships
- eMentoring can be used to recruit youth to healthcare careers**

