Written by Jane Nicholson, ASU News Bureau
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Appalachian State University's College of Health Sciences and the Wake Forest School of Medicine (WFSM) have announced a collaboration that will provide students with an opportunity to have learning experiences outside the traditional classroom environment through high-tech laboratories, clinical sites, internships, research projects with faculty members and study abroad programs. "This partnership will provide learning experiences from both universities and provide our graduates a unique competitive advantage," explained Dr. Fred Whitt, founding dean of Appalachian's College of Health Sciences. "Public and private partnerships such as this are key to our college advancing our mission to enhance the health and quality of life of North Carolina citizens and to meet the health care needs of our region."

"A partnership between the School of Medicine and the College of Health Sciences represents a complimentary, synergistic relationship. We each offer unique health professional training programs that together represent the full spectrum of health care," said Reamer Bushardt, Pharm.D., PA-C, professor and chair of Physician Assistant Studies at Wake Forest School of Medicine.

"Some of the early steps in the collaboration will focus on educational efforts, with attention to projects that will increase access to care for members of our communities," Bushardt said.

Appalachian's new College of Health Sciences enrolls 2,000 students in nationally accredited undergraduate and graduate programs in nursing, nutrition and dietetics, speech-language pathology, exercise science, health promotion, social work, health care management, athletic training, recreation management, and physical education. In addition, the college supports a human performance research center at the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis.

WFSM currently enrolls 477 medical students, 323 graduate students, 106 PA students, 107 allied health students and 45 nurse anesthesia students.