Chapter Success Story:
Increasing Medical Student Involvement in State ACS Chapters…The WV Chapter Experience…

Bryan Richmond, MD, MBA, FACS
Professor of Surgery and Division Chief – General Surgery
WV University/Charleston Division
Charleston, WV

Current Governor and Immediate Past President, WV ACS Chapter
What we have always done...

- Promoted resident involvement, hoping to stimulate continued interest in ACS membership
  - Paper competitions (Trauma, Surgery)
    - Included sponsored stays at conference hotel
  - Mock orals
  - Networking sessions
  - Communications courses
  - “Top gun” resident competitions
  - On site ultrasound courses
Why recruit medical students...

- Generate interest in surgical careers
- Establish the concept that surgeons are the most effective mentors, and that networking and involvement is essential for career development/success
- Show that the ACS is interested in them and that they have a role and a voice within the college
WV Chapter Meeting - 2015

- 3 day program held at a destination resort hotel
  - The Greenbrier Resort
- 95 surgeon/resident attendees
- 70 medical student attendees
What we did that worked...

- Several years ago, began inviting students from the medical school local to our meeting to attend the meeting.
- This year extended it to all three state medical schools, using surgery interest group presidents as our contacts.
Other successful elements…

- Waived conference fee…
- Assisted in funding their stay…
- Students welcomed at all receptions, social functions, etc…
- Scheduled special sessions specifically for the medical students…
  - One such session was an open forum which allowed Q&A with local surgeons – both academic and community, ACS leaders (Rick Greene, Ken Mattox), and WV Chapter leaders.
- Enthusiastically received, all med students participated, and 40 surgeon attendees participated
  - Session ran 2 hours.
Additional benefits...

- Invigorating event for the chapter
- ACS leaders took notice...featured as a success story
- WV residency programs reporting that interest in their programs has increased this year...
  - Our best match year in ten years
This year…

- Planning another great meeting!
- 3 separate $5000 grants from training programs’ institutional foundations
- $5000 grant from private industry
  - This arose from a presentation on our project at the Oct. ACS meeting “chapter speed networking” event
- $20,000 total funding!!! Planning 2-3 nights lodging plus food allowance.
- Consideration of adding a med student poster session/paper competition for next year…
Challenges for continued success…

- Maintain interest – mentorship!
  - Inspire our med students to want to be like us

- Continued funding for the stay at the meeting
  - Grants, Dean’s/Chairs discretionary funds, SIG fund-raisers, private industry, etc…
  - Demonstrate to the leadership/money people/foundations/etc… of the “value added” by involving med students in our meeting

- Get attendees excused from their responsibilities to be able to attend

- Continue to provide events specific to the needs and concerns of the medical students
  - Poster sessions
  - Forums
  - Career fairs
Questions?

- Thank you for your attention…