

Pharmacy Preceptor Finds Rewards Go Both Ways

After 25 years of working with pharmacy students, Brian Feagans RPh, MS, and Pharmacy Clinical Manager at St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center, in Pueblo, Colorado still enjoys the special relationship between preceptor and student.

“We see our students as part of the team to take care of patients,” notes Brian. They learn by doing. Students often work side by side with physicians in the clinical setting and sometimes in a trauma setting. They answer questions, do research and track down adverse reactions. In addition, they get to look at a lot of patient drug profiles. “Six weeks is a short amount of time, but by the end they are getting pretty good and pick up most everything.”

The education goes beyond the science of pharmacy. Brian equips his students to work in the real world, to communicate with doctors and others on the medical team. He helps his students understand how important it is to “know what you don’t know” and go get the right answer.

“You have to want to do it,” he said referring to his years as a preceptor. “It’s a special experience and the rewards go both ways.” He explained that he often learns from his students and feels they are well-prepared for their rotations. He also appreciates the diversity of the students coming from the UC Denver Health Sciences Center saying the experience has enriched his understanding of the world.

Students on Pharmacy rotation typically stay in housing provided by Southeastern Colorado Area Health Education Center’s (SECAHEC).

Caption: Pharmacy Preceptor Brian Feagans, RPh, MS, and Pharmacy Clinical Manager at St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center, in Pueblo works with student Erin Samura during her rotation.