

NEWS RELEASE

East Carolina University News Services

Contact: Kelly Rogers Dilda, Health Sciences Communication,
rogerske@ecu.edu

Telephone: (252) 744-2232

Photo attached: ECU Brody Scholar Ryan Dickerson

Jamesville native receives ECU's most prestigious scholarship

Greenville, N.C. (9/22/21)—A Jamesville native at ECU's Brody School of Medicine has been awarded the university's most prestigious scholarship.

Ryan Dickerson has been chosen for the Class of 2025 Brody Scholar award, valued at approximately \$118,000.

As a Brody Scholar, Dickerson will receive four years of medical school tuition, living expenses and the opportunity to design his or her own summer enrichment program that can include travel abroad. The award will also support community service projects the students may undertake while in medical school.

Since the program began in 1983, 150 students have received scholarships. About 76 percent of Brody Scholars remain in North Carolina to practice, and the majority of those stay in eastern North Carolina.

Dickerson, the son of Kent and Tracey Dickerson, graduated from the North Carolina School of Science and Math and earned a bachelor's degree in biology from UNC–Chapel Hill.

He decided to pursue medicine after his grandfather received a heart transplant, “allowing me to spend an additional five years with him,” Dickerson said. He was also influenced by his experience with anatomy and physiology in high school courses.

“Knowing the impact that other physicians had on my family and the fascination I experienced while learning about the human body drove me to where I am today,” Dickerson said. “During my time in medical school, I hope to develop the skills required to treat patients at the highest level so that I can have a meaningful impact on the lives of my patients and their families. I also hope to develop close professional relationships with my peers to aid in contributing to a collective approach in healthcare.

Dickerson said he has a particular interest in emergency medicine but is open to pursuing other specialties as he learns about all his options in the coming years. He knows he wants to focus specifically on the impact of health disparities in eastern North Carolina.

“I am passionate about exploring the social determinates of health care and understanding the complexities of access to care in eastern North Carolina,” Dickerson said.

He said he also hopes to apply lessons he learned as a lifeguard instructor and organic chemistry peer mentor to the next phase of his life.

As a Brody Scholar, Dickerson said he wants to take advantage of opportunities he might not otherwise have access to.

“I am extremely honored to receive a life-changing award, as the Brody Scholar program will open doors and paths that I would not have had the opportunity to explore previously,” he said. “Receiving the Brody Scholarship has made me feel like a part of something larger than myself, and I hope to make all those that have invested in and supported me proud.”

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About East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine

The Brody School of Medicine at ECU was founded more than 40 years ago to increase the supply of primary care physicians serving North Carolina, improve the health status of eastern North Carolina and enhance access of minority and disadvantaged students to a medical education. Each year, the school graduates close to 86 medical students and welcomes about 125 residents and fellows. Nearly half of Brody’s more than 2,400 graduates practice in N.C., many in rural and underserved areas. Brody consistently ranks in the Top 10% of U.S. medical schools for graduating physicians who practice in-state, practice primary care and practice in rural and underserved areas.