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## **3RNET PLACES 1,619 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS**

*National nonprofit adds \$978 million in economic impact, helps add 22,494 jobs*

Las Vegas – 3RNet members have totaled how many health professionals they were able to place in rural or underserved communities over the last year, and the results are impressive.

3RNet is a national nonprofit network that works through its 53 members to help rural and underserved areas find health care professionals looking for jobs. Members recently completed a survey to help the organization compile how many professionals were placed in communities through their efforts.

From October 2012 through September 2013, 3RNet members were able to refer candidates to health care facilities 290,557 times and they successfully placed 1,619 health professionals in rural or underserved communities across the country.

“Placing over 1,600 health care professionals across the country means that rural and underserved communities are healthier and more viable. We could not place so many qualified professionals without the expertise and hard work of our national network of members. These numbers really speak to our strength as an organization of dedicated people who understand the importance of educating health professionals on the communities they work in everyday,” said Mike Shimmens, executive director for 3RNet.

According to the National Center for Rural Health Works, the average economic impact of a rural primary care physician is anywhere from \$1 to \$1.8 million, and on average hiring a physician results in adding 23 other jobs.

Using these numbers for physician placements only, 3RNet members were able to add \$978 million in economic impact and 22,494 jobs to rural and underserved communities nationwide.

“Our mission is to improve rural and underserved areas by helping them find physicians and other health care providers,” said Shimmens. “We have always known the work our members do is worth so much in so many ways. Seeing their impact on local economies and with job growth is extremely satisfying.”

Physicians specializing in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, and internal medicine/pediatrics were the most-placed, and dentists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, registered nurses, psychologists, and social workers were the most-placed non-physician health professionals on the 3RNet site during this time frame.

To learn more about 3RNet and their members, visit [www.3rnet.org](http://www.3rnet.org).

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### **About 3RNet**

3RNet is a national nonprofit network of members who work to connect physicians and health professionals looking for jobs in rural or underserved areas with communities across the country through the 3RNet's job board ([www.3rnet.org](http://www.3rnet.org)) and their local expertise.

3RNet's mission is to improve rural and underserved communities' access to quality health care through recruitment of physicians and other health care professionals, development of community based recruitment and retention activities, and national advocacy relative to rural and underserved health care workforce issues.

3RNet members are organizations such as State Offices of Rural Health, Primary Care Offices, AHECs, university programs, state-based non-profit organizations and Primary Care Associations.

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Utah practice sites, including rural hospitals, federally qualified health centers, certified rural health clinics, public health departments, not-for-profit practices, as well as for-profit practices can post employment opportunities on the 3RNet site **FREE OF CHARGE** through the Utah Department of Health, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, membership in the 3RNet.

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If you have questions about the 3RNet site, you can contact them directly at [www.3rnet.org](http://www.3rnet.org) or you can contact the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Ms. Erin L. Olsen, at 801-273-6618, [elolsen@utah.gov](mailto:elolsen@utah.gov).

