

"Our students experience being both teachers and learners," Ross said. "It's really a complete circle in terms of the education that's provided."

The new Burlington connection also offers RFUMS students insight into rural health care at a time when rural areas like southeastern Wisconsin are experiencing a shortage of providers. Burlington, in Racine County, has a population of 10,200.

The number of residents has grown by 20 percent since 1990.

"There's no question that life and practice in a smaller community like Burlington is very, very different than life and practice in Chicago," Ross said.

"Schools are really obligated to do the very best they can to train and provide students for the areas that they serve. We look at the southeastern region of Wisconsin as being within our service area and we also know we have students, who when they leave here, will want to find practice opportunities in rural or relatively rural areas."

Ross hopes the budding relationship among the hospital, high school and University will both benefit the Burlington community as well as help RFUMS continue to grow.

"We hope to do a better job of becoming attractive to the best and brightest students of the Burlington area so when it's time to enter into the health profession, we will be a fondly-known resource," Ross said. "Once they're here as students and subsequently return to Burlington to practice, we will have really closed the loop."

About Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science

Formed in 1912 as the Chicago Hospital-College of Medicine, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science is a national leader in interprofessional medical and healthcare education, offering a doctor of medicine program through the Chicago Medical School and doctor of podiatric medicine program through the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine.

RFUMS also offers a range of degrees through its College of Health Professions, including nurse anesthesia, nutrition, physical therapy and physician assistant, and advanced biomedical degrees through the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

There are more than 15,000 RFUMS graduates in the United States and worldwide.