



Training the Next Generation of Community Health Professionals

Close to 50 million people already lack access to primary care because of physician shortages in their communities, while, at the same time, fewer medical students are choosing careers in primary care.

- To address this challenge, Erie has partnered with Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern McGaw Medical Center and Norwegian American Hospital to establish the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program (THCGME) Program, formally known as the Northwestern McGaw Family Medicine Residency Program.
- The program is one of the original 11 federally funded Teaching Health Centers in the country and the only one in Illinois. The classes of Teaching Health Center residents graduated in 2013, 2014, and 2015.
- The Teaching Health Center program focuses on developing the residency program within community-based ambulatory primary care settings, which will ultimately produce physicians ready to deliver primary and specialty health care in community health settings.
- Within this innovative program, medical residents participate in hospital rotations at Norwegian American Hospital and specialty rounds at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.
- Since the program's inception, residents have helped increase Erie's capacity to provide healthcare by providing services to more than 10,000 patients through over 34,000 medical visits.
- In addition to training residents in the Northwestern McGaw Family Medicine Residency Program, Erie currently provides ongoing training for more than 250 students from 10 schools in the health professions, including medical students and residents, nursing students, dental students, medical assistants and physician assistants. Major partners include the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, and the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry.
- Erie's Waukegan location launched the Family and Community Residency Program in partnership with Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine and Lake Forest Hospital in 2015.