

## NEWS RELEASE

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# University of Saint Mary Pre-Med Student Selected for Scholars in Rural Health Program

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—University of Saint Mary biology major Christine Weber is one of 14 Kansas students chosen for the University of Kansas Medical School’s Scholars in Rural Health Program. So long as Weber successfully meets the terms of the program, she’ll be guaranteed admission to KU Medical School in 2011.

According to KU, the program is intended for pre-med students who demonstrate an interest in practicing medicine in rural communities. The end goal of the program is to increase the number of med students who chose to practice in rural Kansas.

“I’m really excited about this, it’s an excellent opportunity” said Weber, a USM junior from Douglass, Kan. “This program is going to help me gain knowledge and experience with rural medicine as well as help me continue on my path to becoming a pediatrician. I am very grateful to my teachers and everyone else who has helped me get to this point.”

As part of the program, Weber will spend 200 hours over the next two years shadowing a rural health practitioner in her home region. During her senior year, she’ll have to complete a manuscript exploring a rural health service or clinical care topic. If Weber successfully meets both goals, maintains a 3.5 GPA, and hits a satisfactory score on her MCATs, she’s guaranteed admission into KU Medical School.

Dr. Caroline Mackintosh, director of USM’s biology program, said Weber is a deserving recipient of this honor.

“Those who know Christine know that she is an excellent student,” Dr. Mackintosh said. “She’s also active in campus ministry programs and is president of our Science and Math Club. She’s demonstrated the compassion, leadership, and other qualities that professional schools seek.”

*The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park, Shawnee, and Kansas City, Kan. Visit [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu) on the web for more information.*

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