

The University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy (UWSOP) is proud to highlight one of our exceptional alumni, Maia Rauer, who is one of two recipients of the School's 2022-23 Preceptor of the Year award. Maia is a 2008 graduate who is currently a clinical pharmacist at Medical Center of the Rockies Outpatient Pharmacy (MCROP). She has been serving as a UWSOP preceptor for the past 10 plus years, and she also assists the other pharmacist at MCROP as co-preceptor of both University of Colorado and Regis pharmacy students.

Maia has been with MCROP for the past eight years, and prior to her current position at MCROP, she worked as a staff pharmacist at a Target pharmacy and then as a manager at another Target pharmacy both in Ft. Collins, CO. She has taken UWSOP students on rotation since her time at Target. The School is extremely grateful Maia continued to take UW students when she moved to MCROP, as students have consistently nominated her as Preceptor of the Year and have spoken highly of her the entire time she has served as preceptor for the UWSOP.

There are many reasons why students respect and admire Maia and thus nominated her for Preceptor of the Year. The thing that stands out the most is her dedication to students. Students feel that she goes above and beyond to make sure they are involved in meaningful ways in the pharmacy, which in turn builds their clinical confidence. In fact, that is exactly what Maia strives to do. She tries to create a culture of having students feel like they are part of the team, even if it's not an area of pharmacy they plan on going into. She works to give them the opportunity to do the things she does as a pharmacist every day. This requires her to let go of some of the control of the activity, but by consciously allowing students be a part of the activity with her there for support makes all the difference to students.

Not only do students benefit from their experiences with Maia, but she also benefits from having students. She loves seeing students gain confidence and develop their skills and knowledge in the four weeks they are on rotation with her. She, also loves learning from them and seeing their perspective on things. She really appreciates their inquisitive nature, which motivates her to stay current on her pharmacy knowledge so she can answer their questions accurately.

It's not all work while on rotation with Maia. Because the MCROP does not have a large staff, she is able to create an inclusive environment for students. She wants students to feel comfortable and confident while on rotation with her, so she strives to be approachable and welcoming. She also gets to know her students on a personal level by talking to her students throughout the rotation about things other than pharmacy. She also includes them in any celebrations that occur during their time on rotation, such as birthdays. On the last day of each rotation, she buys her students lunch as a thank you for all that they have contributed over the past four weeks.

Four years ago Maia received the Medical Center of the Rockies (MCR) Wall of Fame honor. Her peers nominated her for her excellence in patient care. She was featured on a wall at MCR where others were also recognized. We are sure that this award and the Preceptor of the Year

award will not be the last awards Maia receives in recognition of her skills, knowledge and compassion. The UWSOP is proud of all of Maia's accomplishments, and we are honored to recognize her as one of our outstanding alumni. Thank you for all that you do for your students and patients, Maia.