

# Wine-Tasting Gala supporting FSU medical scholarships

Elaine Geissinger 8:49 p.m. EDT October 4, 2014

Part of the FSU College of Medicine's mission is to help create primary-care physicians who will practice in underserved Florida communities — because they grew up in those communities. And the school is meeting its mission.

There's a catch, however. Few of the students most likely to choose primary care have the financial resources to get through medical school without unreasonable levels of educational debt. The average debt for the College of Medicine's graduating students is \$145,000.

In support of scholarships for medical students, the school is inviting you to enjoy a glass or two of wine at The Fresh Market next Thursday (Oct. 23).

The sponsor of this Wine-Tasting Gala is the medical school's Tallahassee Regional Campus, which supervises and nurtures third- and fourth-year medical students in the Tallahassee-Thomasville-Marianna area (similar to the College of Medicine's campuses in five other Florida cities). More than 500 area physicians serve as faculty mentors.

Forty College of Medicine alumni now practice in the Big Bend or South Georgia, and most spent their third and fourth years at the Tallahassee Regional Campus.

Each year, 120 first-year medical students arrive in Tallahassee. At the moment, one-third are from backgrounds considered to be underrepresented in medicine. Scholarships mean the world to them.

"Please come meet some of our impressive students and dedicated faculty members," said Ron Hartsfield, dean of the Tallahassee Regional Campus. "Enjoy the wines. Most important, help keep the cost of a medical education within reach."

The Wine-Tasting Gala is scheduled for 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday (Oct. 23) at The Fresh Market, 1390 Village Square Blvd. Tickets cost \$30 a person in advance or \$35 at the door. To buy tickets, visit [www.med.fsu.edu/winetasting](http://www.med.fsu.edu/winetasting). For details, write to [elaine.geissinger@med.fsu.edu](mailto:elaine.geissinger@med.fsu.edu).

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