



**Safiyya Adam** is from Murphy, North Carolina. As an undergraduate at UNC- Chapel Hill, she volunteered with elderly populations and worked as a Nursing Assistant. She enjoys birding and reading during her free time. Growing up in a rural community, seeing the healthcare shortage firsthand, and having incredible support from community members and mentors has inspired her to work in rural North Carolina. She hopes to one day make a positive difference in the care of the underserved.

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**Ben Atkinson** spent his early years in rural Pennsylvania before moving to Waxhaw, North Carolina in middle school. He studied business and economics at UNC – Chapel Hill and worked in management consulting in Atlanta, Georgia after graduation just long enough to realize that big business and city life were not for him. Ben discovered a passion for health and medicine, completed a master’s degree in Physiology at North Carolina State University. Ben is interested in general surgery and plans to practice in rural North Carolina.

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**Kyle Bingham** is a Fullerton Scholar from Rutherfordton, North Carolina. As an undergraduate at North Carolina State University, Kyle studied Chemistry, Biochemistry and Human Biology. Geriatrics and sports medicine are particular areas of interest for Kyle and he plans to practice in his hometown.

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**Luke Ford** was born in Georgia and raised in Durham, North Carolina. Despite growing up in a suburban area, Luke plans to live and work in a rural area. He has extended family and friends in rural areas, and that lifestyle is appealing. He is passionate about addressing the lack of access to healthcare in rural North Carolina. The Kenan Rural Scholars Program provides a great avenue to pursue that passion. Luke spends his free time fly-fishing, hunting and backpacking.

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**Allison Hollowell** grew up in Bayboro, a small town in eastern North Carolina. She graduated from UNC -Chapel Hill in 2016 with a degree in Biology and Anthropology. Before medical school, Allison worked as a research coordinator with UNC’s Division of Geriatric Emergency Medicine, as well as serving as a volunteer EMT. Allison is interested in family medicine and is excited to learn more about primary care in rural areas through the Kenan Scholars program. She hopes to one day return home to practice in Eastern North Carolina, and serve as an advocate for her patients and community.

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**Sarah McShane** grew up in Delaware and Virginia before moving to North Carolina in 2012 to attend UNC-Chapel Hill. She quickly fell in love with the state. She has worked with underserved communities as a student and a doula, and has developed an interest in serving women and children. Sarah is passionate about finding innovative ways to connect these communities with quality, affordable medical care. She is looking forward to her journey in the Kenan Scholars Program.

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**Mary Shell** grew up in Bryson City, North Carolina. She began her undergraduate studies at UNC-Chapel Hill and transferred to UNC-Asheville, where she majored in psychology. Mary has been interested in psychiatry since high school. Prior to entering medical school, she worked in an inpatient psychiatric facility. Mary plans to practice in rural Western North Carolina.

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**Jarrold Suddreth** is from Lenoir, in the western part of North Carolina and spent most of his life in Caldwell county. Jarrod’s path to medical school was somewhat non-traditional as he began my healthcare career as a registered nurse. After completing his undergraduate studies, Jarrod returned to Lenoir to work at the only hospital in the county where he grew to enjoy the tight knit network of healthcare professionals within the community hospital setting. Upon completion of medical school and residency, Jarrod hopes to return to a similar setting to provide outstanding care as an internist.

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**Meagan Watkins** grew up in Aberdeen, North Carolina as a member of the Lumbee Tribe. She plans to go into primary care and work in Native American communities. Meagan is interested in public health disparities among minority and rural populations. In her free time, she likes to read, workout and play musical instruments. *Meagan is featured in a recent video about the Kenan Rural Scholars program:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3w7u1MQAB8>

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**Susan Zhao** is from Tennessee and grew up in North Carolina. She fell in love with rural patient populations while studying Biology, Chemistry, and Medical Humanities at Appalachian State University. While volunteering with mental health organizations and community clinics in Boone, she developed a keen interest in improving access to mental health services and providing holistic care for underserved patients. She enjoys yoga, gaming, traveling to faraway places and hiking with her wolfdog Ted. *Susan is featured in a recent video about the Kenan Rural Scholars Program:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60FKS8VEeNY>

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