

Rural health policy matters. It should be crafted by informed decision makers from research that's easy to find and understand.

**Brandon Baumbach:** What the Gateway does is provide you timely information that you know is reliable. I mean this is about research. It's not just news updates or what's been happening on the hill as it relates to policy. This is investigative research and you know it's coming from the most reliable source.

The rural health research gateway, a free, timely online resource for healthcare professionals, decision makers, educators, students, stakeholders, and researchers to access the information they need to make a difference.

We just want to make sure that people get to the information they want. Doesn't necessarily...

**Brad Gibbens:** You can get fact sheets, you can get policy briefs or white papers from the research centers, journal articles. They have a dissemination toolkit and I like that because it tells you exactly what a policy brief is and a fact sheet and how they differ. And I think from a research and an academic perspective that's a good tool. You just go to Gateway, put in the term you want, and you have the information right there. So I think it's very, very effective. It's a great resource for both faculty and students too.

**Devon Isaacs:** What sets you apart as a student is knowing your research, knowing what kind of resources are out there, and it gives you that kind of cutting edge so that you're competitive in the field amongst other students.

**Brad Gibbens:** It also works really effectively, I think, for people who are policymakers.

**Brandon Baumbach:** The Gateway makes it easy for me to cut through the clutter. I'm able to get right to what I need, specifically with the policy issues I'm looking at. And so the alerts allow you to indicate your preferences and what issue areas am I most concerned with. So whether it is I'm looking for that policy brief or publications, chart books, or even if I've missed a recent webinar, it's going to keep me up-to-date on all of the information and resources available on Gateway.

**Devon Isaacs:** So being able to access, you know, when an upcoming webinar is going to occur through Facebook and really utilizing those social media resources to stay in touch with the latest news and updates on the particular topics is very helpful.

**Nathan Fix:** I follow Gateway on Facebook. That allows me to stay current with the rural health information that's going on throughout the country and I get invites to various webinars that I can attend or watch some that have been archived.

**Devon Isaacs:** Being a part of a live webinar allows me to actually interact with the process, with the learning process. And I can get feedback immediately and ask questions and having

that you know 10-20 minute interval at the end of the webinar where I can actually get that feedback, allows me to take something with me from that process.

**Brandon Baumbach:** I mean it's really intuitive. It's really quite simple. It's what I expect it to be.

**Devon Isaacs:** So having that unlimited, free access and the ease of use with Gateway has been great.

**Nathan Fix:** That transitions over well into my professional career because I already have the resource that I can use and I'm comfortable with.

**Brad Gibbens:** It's the best of both worlds coming together. Something that's useful and is free is something we don't get every day. So, I think that's a real strength of Gateway.

Funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, with a mission to spread its rural health services research to all audiences.