It was a banner Match Day at U-A-M-S last week, the annual day graduating med students find out their specialties and where they will go for their internships and residencies. The Dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. Christopher Westphal, says everybody went home happy from this year's Match-Day unveiling...

NEWS 04 :26 "...BECOME A SPECIALIST."

U-A-M-S will graduate 160 students this spring—a record number. Since Arkansas is designated a Primary-Care-Limited state by the federal government, the school is incentivizing new doctors to do their residencies in rural areas. Westphal said on A-E-T-N's Arkansas Week more than 75-percent of the state's counties are uncovered by the primary-care specialties of Internal Medicine, Family Practice and Obstetrics and Gynecology. This more than half of the graduating class matched into primary-care residencies.

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U-A-M-S has reached a high-water mark academically, with a record number of medical students set to graduate and a class that achieved a 100-percent match-rate. Dr. Christopher Westphal, Dean of the College of Medicine, said on Arkansas Week more than half of the 160 graduates recently received a match into primary-care residencies, the specialties of Family Practice, O-B-G-Y-N and Internal Medicine. He said that's good for the state because more than 75-percent of counties in the state don't have local access to primary care...

News 05 :26 "...THAT THEY LIKE IT."

Dr. Westphal said the federal government has designated Arkansas a Primary-Care-Limited state because of the paucity of physicians in primary-care specialties in so many areas.