

# Bringing Big Sky Trauma Education to the Frontier:

## Overcoming Barriers Utilizing a Virtual Platform

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### INTRODUCTION:

- State mandated education
- Challenging with pandemic, travel distance, & limited local specialists
  - Required an average 178 miles travel & 275 total hours to reach 11 counties
- Necessitated a novel approach to trauma education



147,040 sq. miles (3<sup>rd</sup> lowest population density in the United States [6.86 people/sq mi])

### OBJECTIVES:

- Decrease barriers to continuing education in rural areas
- Improve access to quality trauma education
- Allow opportunities for virtual interaction with providers
- Increase flexibility and ease of accessibility
- Provide consistent and free educational offerings
- Minimize travel hours lost for providers and trauma staff

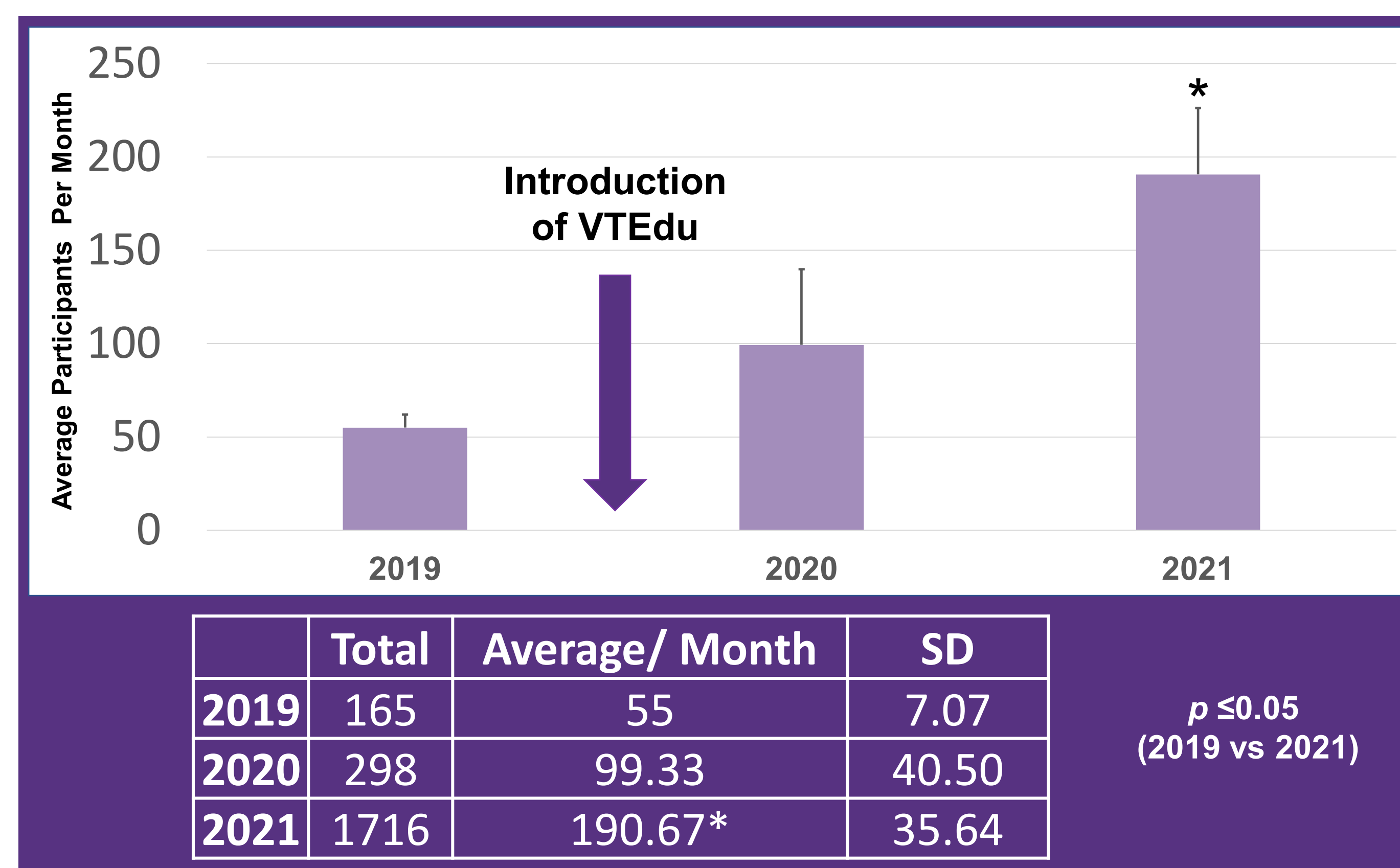
### PROJECT DESIGN:

- Established Fall of 2020
- Multidisciplinary trauma & emergent care topics
- Provides 1 free CE hour per month
- Live interactive Q&A
- Interprofessional collaboration
- Historical presentations available
- Regionally recognized experts
- Current evidence-based information
- Monthly email notifications/invitations
- CE available for 48 hours
- Electronic attendance roster & evaluation

Virtual Trauma Education Topics		
Blood Transfusions	Non-Accidental Trauma	Ocular Emergencies
Wilderness	PTSD	Rural
Orthopedic	Air Transport	Vascular
Penetrating	Airway	Thoracic

### OUTCOME:

- Viewership has expanded across the country:
  - 25 states
  - 169 communities
  - Over 2000 views (~45% viewership was nurses)
- Attendance increased due to ease of accessibility
- Rewarding for presenters to connect with regional providers

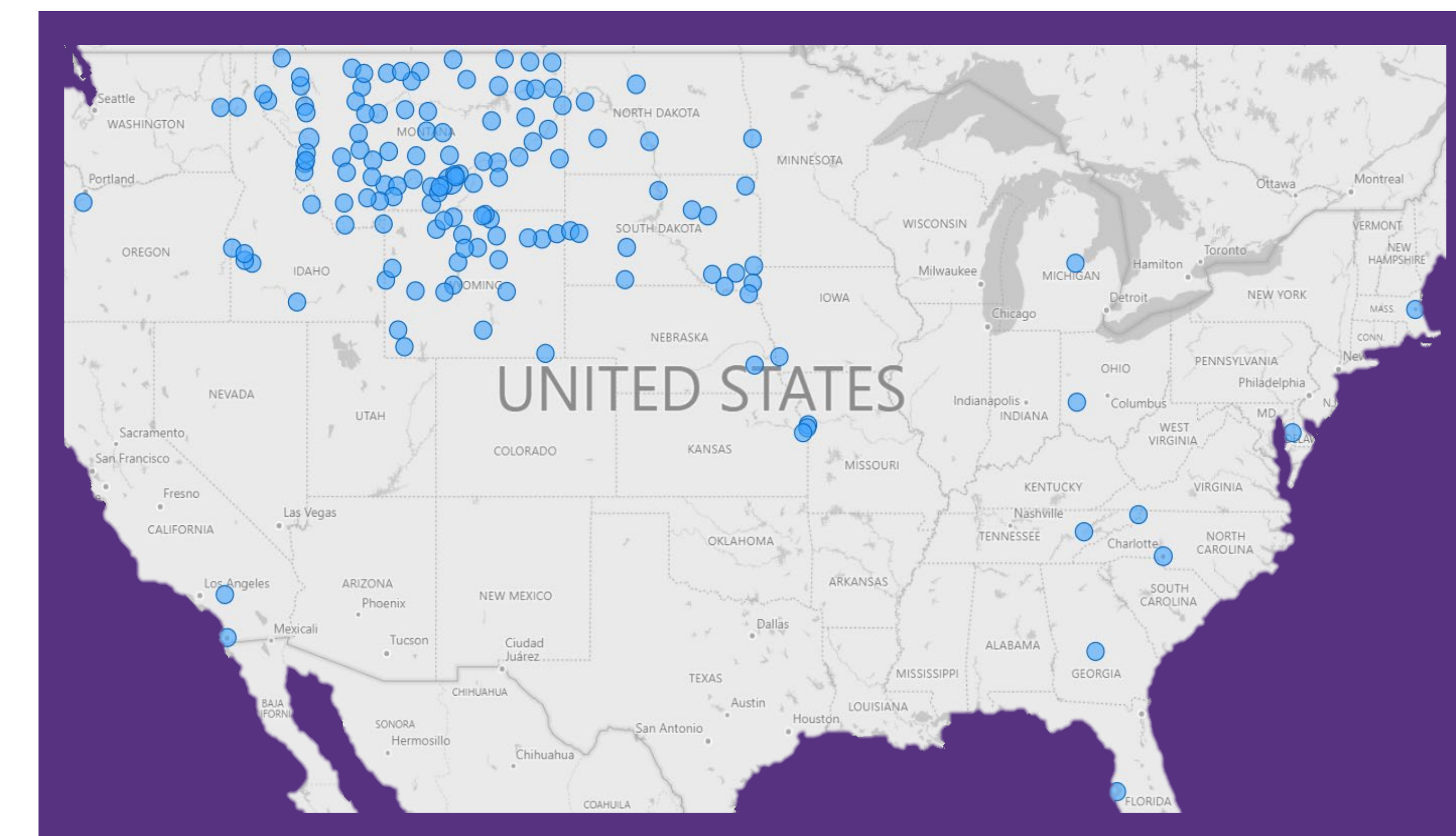


- Participants reported:
  - “These training opportunities are great for us in very rural areas to get to view from home”
  - “Fantastic training and relevant at all levels of care and scopes of practice!”
  - “Great depth of knowledge and presented in a way that was very easy to relate to”
  - “Thorough, factual, easy to understand, very knowledgeable”
  - “I truly appreciate the trauma topics and the effort to host these”

### CONCLUSION:

A robust framework has ensured Virtual Trauma Education delivers high-quality trauma education across a sparsely populated state.

Even in a time of restricted in-person offerings and limited nursing resources, we have produced a program that has proven its sustainability.



A map showing viewers (blue dots) across the United States

### FUTURE STEPS:

- Expanding viewership
- Collect data on state and national nursing CE requirements
- Improve patient outcomes through VTedu
- Increase compliance with state education requirements
- Expand multidisciplinary presenters & topics
- Cross-collaborative education between rural & urban clinical environments
- Provide rural trauma education to urban medical professionals



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