Montana State University School of Pharmacy discusses what pharmacy offers

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Pharmacy offers a variety of challenging and lucrative career opportunities, according to a report released by Dean R. L. Van Horne of the Montana State University School of Pharmacy.

The school has received a large number of notices of positions available for pharmacists in Montana as well as many notices of openings in manufacturing in industrial areas of the United States, he said.

Starting salaries are excellent, often reaching $600 a month for the school's newly graduated students, according to the dean. Many of the available positions have gone unfilled for some time because of the shortage of registered pharmacists, he noted.

A particularly attractive area of pharmaceutical practice, especially for women, is hospital pharmacy, he pointed out. Pharmacists in this field operate dispensaries, compound prescriptions, work on the production of pharmaceuticals used in hospitals and serve on the hospital health team responsible for determining proper medications for patients.

Most young persons think of pharmacy as embracing only the practice in the neighborhood drug store, he commented. High school students are generally not aware of the special work done by pharmacists in public health hospitals, Veterans Administration hospitals, manufacturing pharmacy, detailing of new drugs to physicians and community-type hospital pharmacy.

Information about careers in pharmacy or about any phase of pharmaceutical education is available on request from the MSU School of Pharmacy, Missoula, the dean said.

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