

New Student Loan Repayment Program 'Operation Keepsake' Announced at President & Dean's Resident Graduate Reception



On Tuesday, May 30, at the 2017 President & Dean's Resident Graduate Reception at the High Museum of Art, Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice announced Operation Keepsake, a resident loan repayment program created to address medical resident retention in the state of Georgia after graduation. Operation Keepsake was conceived and developed by the leadership team at Morehouse School of Medicine and based on the desire to assist in addressing the physician shortage in Georgia. Operation Keepsake is a new initiative funded from the \$35 million investment that Governor Nathan Deal made in the institution based on its continuing effort to place graduates in rural and underserved areas throughout the state. MSM has a 63% overall retention rate of graduates remaining in Georgia after completing their program. Since 1983, 512 new physicians have been added to the ranks of physicians in the state.

The Loan Repayment Program provides the following benefits:

- In the future, serve as an incentive for residents to remain in Georgia.
- Allow residents to decrease their financial burden, the average resident having approximately \$150,000 of debt upon graduation.
- Help some residents choose a career in primary care feasible because of this assistance with their financial burden.

Morehouse School of Medicine is proud to award the first of the Loan Repayment Program Awards to 10 resident graduates of the Class of 2017. These recipients have met the following criteria:

- Financial debt totaling \$3.3 million collectively
- Majority of them are practicing in an underserved area
- Graduated from a Georgia high school (40%)
- Graduated from a Georgia medical school (33%)