

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Third year medical student Grant Turner began a two-month rotation Tuesday at Chase County Clinic and Chase County Community Hospital.

He's no stranger to the area, having observed at the clinic in 2012 as part of a rural care doctor program between his first and second years at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

"I loved it so much here I wanted to come back," he said. Initially Turner, of Omaha, chose the Imperial rotation because he wanted a "really rural" experience.

The rotations are part of the UNMC Rural Health Education Network, a program developed to help address the shortage of health professionals in rural Nebraska.

Turner, 23, will shadow Dr. Jonathan Richman at the clinic and hospital. "These two months I'll live as a primary care doctor," the student added.

He's already completed psychology, obstetric and internal medicine rotations, with pediatrics and surgery still to come this year.

Turner is debating what type of medicine he'll practice, family or internal, and where he'll end up.

But, he has known since he was a child that he wanted to be a doctor. "I felt I needed to help people for a living," he said, and he also liked math and science.

When Turner was in high school his father was sick for quite awhile. Dealing with that, and with the challenges of communicating with family and health care, solidified his determination to practice medicine.

Turner graduated from Omaha North High School in 2007, then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and chemistry from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, in 2011.

Later this spring two more third-year UNMC students will serve a rotation at the clinic and hospital.