In 2013 a partnership was established between Appalachian State University, Wake Forest Baptist Medical and the Wake Forest School of Medicine for physician assistant (PA) and interprofessional training, the first such public and private partnership in North Carolina. In addition to the PA program on the Wake Forest campus, the distance program in Boone was established to train primary care physician assistants to help address the critical health care needs in rural western North Carolina.

The inaugural class of the Boone cohort of Wake Forest School of Medicine physician assistant (PA) students (pictured above) graduated with Master of Medical Sciences degrees in May, 2016. The cohort launched in June 2014 and marked the first class of Wake Forest PA students to study on the Appalachian State University campus.

More information about the Wake Forest School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program is available here.