



Testimony

Joint Legislative Public Hearing 2013-2014 Budget Health/Medicaid

January 30, 2013

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Leadership for the New York State AHEC System is provided by community-based centers, the Statewide Office at the University at Buffalo and regional offices at Upstate Medical University, Albany Medical College and The Institute for Family Health.

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Some of the most moving images from Hurricane Sandy were of medical professionals who risked their own safety to care for patients. We know the depth of that commitment because we see it every day.

My name is Mary Sienkiewicz and as Director of the New York State Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System, I am here today representing nine centers, three regional offices and the Statewide Office. We are focused on recruiting and training the next generation of health professionals and retaining current providers working in underserved communities. We work side by side with the state's finest doctors, dentists, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, social workers, and other primary care providers in private practices, health clinics, hospitals, SUNY campuses and other academic institutions to guarantee that we have enough well-trained workers who reflect the diversity of New York.

We are well aware of the budgetary challenges facing our State. We are also aware and understand that the Legislature must closely evaluate programs for efficacy, efficiency and priority – or – in other words:

How much does it cost? How well does it work? How does it align with State priorities?

How Much Does the NYS AHEC System Cost?

Since 2000, the State has invested \$24 million in the New York State AHEC System. In return, we have delivered an additional \$58 million in matching funds from federal and other sources. That means for every state dollar invested in the New York State AHEC System, more than \$2 additional are contributed. Of the \$58 million in matching funds received since 2000, \$28 million were federal funds contingent upon state monies. **As in past years, if there is no state allocation for the New York State AHEC System, we are not eligible for federal funds.**

The New York State AHEC System is a responsible steward of state resources and is able to leverage your support by attracting additional resources that are only possible because of the State appropriation. In the 2012-13 State budget, we received \$2.2 million. We are hopeful to receive level funding in 2013-14 in order to maintain our federal and other match funding and to continue our important outreach and workforce training activities.

How Well Does the NYS AHEC System Work?

Last year the New York State AHEC System continued our impressive outreach to 40,000 students statewide through partnerships between the health workforce supply side (secondary schools and post-secondary academic institutions) and demand side (health care employers and communities).

- Nearly 15,000 K-12 and college students learned about health careers through experiential learning with health providers in your communities.
- More than 1,900 medical, nursing and other health professions students received community-based training arranged by AHECs in rural and urban sites.
- Approximately 25,000 health professionals attended our continuing education, distance learning and web-based programs.

Outcomes measures of the New York State AHEC System programs demonstrate remarkable results.

- Short term results indicated that students had greater knowledge of and interest in health careers after participating in AHEC programs.

- Intermediate results are also positive. Students reported that AHEC program participation influenced their decision to pursue a health career. AHEC program participants' college enrollment exceeds national and state rates. Nearly all AHEC program participants in college are attending New York State academic institutions.
- Long term results show that previous AHEC program participants are serving their communities by delivering health care and giving back by precepting medical, nursing and health professions students and serving on AHEC boards of directors.

How Does the NYS AHEC System Align with State Priorities?

Earlier this year, the New York State AHEC System released a five-year strategic plan which aligns with the State's health care and economic development priorities.

We have heard the passionate calls from the Governor and members of the Legislature for more meaningful connections between secondary and post-secondary education and the skills needed to succeed. The New York State AHEC System coordinates every day with academic institutions and employers to tie classroom learning to available jobs in the health care economy. Right now AHECs are conducting on-site experiences for students to learn and practice with current health professionals who model how math, science and information technology skills are integral to today's workplace. We also work with nontraditional and displaced workers in their quest to develop job skills necessary to secure health care employment.

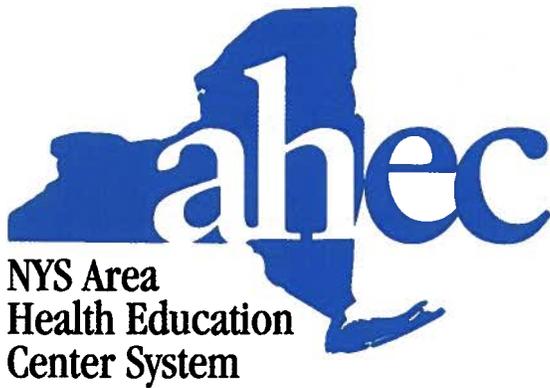
The New York State AHEC System has also been actively involved in Health Department initiatives to improve access to quality medical care such as Doctors Across New York and the Medicaid Redesign Team process.

The testimony that I have provided so far demonstrates that the New York State AHEC System is cost-effective, outcomes-driven and works side-by-side with the State to achieve shared health goals. My remaining comments are focused on this year's budget.

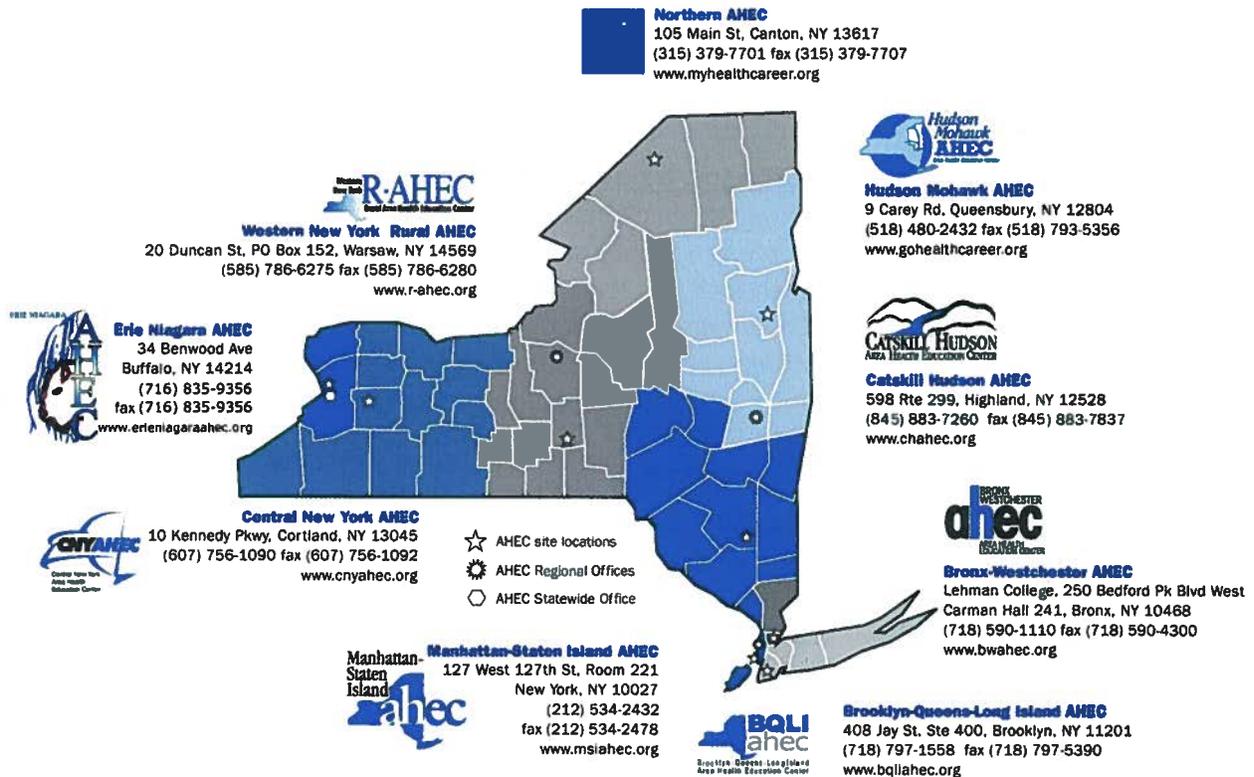
Since 2000, the New York State AHEC System has been a line item in the state budget with a specific allocation – last year we received \$2.2 million. We are pleased that the Department of Health has established health workforce development as an overall strategy in this year's budget. Health workforce development is the central mission of the New York State AHEC System and has been since our inception. In recognition of our accomplishments in the health workforce arena over many years in partnership with New York State, we are confident that we are included in the Workforce Development pool. We are awaiting final confirmation of this information and a funding level for 2013-14.

We ask the Legislature for assistance in securing a dedicated and continued funding stream of \$2.2 million for the New York State AHEC System in 2013-14 so we can continue our work of addressing health workforce needs and expanding primary care access. This is important because our federal funding is only available with State support. Our activities result in professionals providing health care in New York's most deserving communities. Since health care is a major driver in local and regional economic development, our ability to recruit and help train health professionals is an integral part of a healthy local, regional and statewide economy.

Thank you for this opportunity and your continuing support. Also, attached to the copies of my testimony is the most recent annual report for the New York State AHEC System as submitted to Commissioner Shah.



Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012



Regional Offices

Central Region Office at Upstate Medical University
Eastern Region Office at Albany Medical College
New York Metropolitan Region Office at Institute for Family Health

New York State AHEC System Statewide Office
University at Buffalo, UB Family Medicine, Inc.
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"Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health."

New York State AHEC System

Report on Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Purpose/Need: New York State suffers from a shortage of health care professionals and lack of diversity in the health workforce. More than 4.4 million people reside in the state's primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), a figure that exceeds the primary care HPSA populations of 48 other states. The New York State Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System's multifaceted recruitment, training and retention strategies are solutions to current health workforce shortages and New York State Department of Labor forecasts that health care jobs will grow at rates more than five times that of all other occupations.

Mission: The New York State AHEC System focuses on strategies "to enhance access to quality health care and improve health care outcomes by addressing the health workforce needs of medically disadvantaged communities and populations through partnerships between institutions that train health professionals and communities that need them most."

Making All of New York State a Campus:

AHECs are based in rural and urban communities: Bronx-Westchester AHEC, Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC, Catskill Hudson AHEC, Central New York AHEC, Erie Niagara AHEC, Hudson Mohawk AHEC, Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC, Northern AHEC and Western New York Rural AHEC. Via nine centers, three regional offices (Central Region/Upstate Medical University, Eastern Region/Albany Medical College and New York Metropolitan Region/Institute for Family Health) and Statewide Office/University at Buffalo, the New York State AHEC System community-based strategies cultivate a more diverse health workforce, assure each community has enough practitioners in the right categories, particularly primary care, and improve access to quality health care for all New Yorkers.

Recruitment, training and retention strategies:

- Develop clinical training opportunities for future health professionals in medically underserved areas; recruit faculty committed to working with them.
- Encourage young people, especially from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds, to pursue health careers.
- Provide continuing education and professional support to practitioners, develop career ladders and promote workforce re-entry programs.

Objectives:

- 1) Expand and support health professions training programs and community-based training experiences for medical students, health professions students and post-secondary students.
- 2) Increase quantity, quality and diversity of health professions faculty committed to working with medical, health professions and post-secondary students in medically underserved areas.
- 3) Enhance the local health care workforce through continuing education programs for medical and health care professionals, development and support for career ladders, and promotion of programs that support re-entry workers.
- 4) Increase elementary, secondary, community college and college students' knowledge and awareness of health careers through pipeline programs that promote medicine and health professions as viable options, particularly for students from disadvantaged and underrepresented minority backgrounds, in order to promote a culturally diverse workforce.
- 5) Assess and respond to the health workforce needs of New York State at the regional, county, and where possible, at the sub-county level.
- 6) Enhance statewide support for centers and regions and dynamic statewide needs-based Area Health Education Center System.

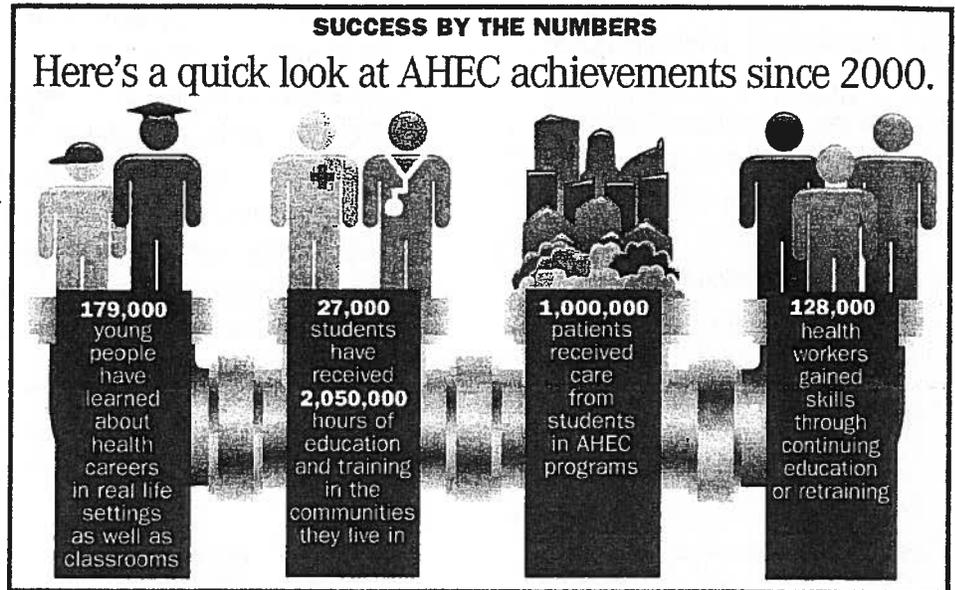
New York State AHEC System Report on Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Overview:

► More than 7,300 elementary and middle school students, nearly 6,200 high school students and over 1,400 college students participated in health careers programs (e.g., after-school skill based preparation; multi-contact, sequential learning internship/mentorship opportunities; MyHealthCareer® interactive website; speakers' bureaus/classroom presentations and health career fairs).

► Nearly 1,900 medical, nursing and health professions students were trained by over 500 local preceptors/faculty in AHEC-sponsored community-based sites (e.g., community health centers, hospitals, clinics and private practices), with an emphasis on underserved communities. Faculty were provided professional development opportunities to improve teaching skills.

► Over 25,000 health professionals received continuing education training in 688 workshops, conferences, distance learning and web-based programs. Retraining initiatives provided health professions training for adult career-changers, displaced and re-entry workers.



Note: These are round numbers. Please call the Statewide Office for detailed statistics.

Making All of New York State a Campus:

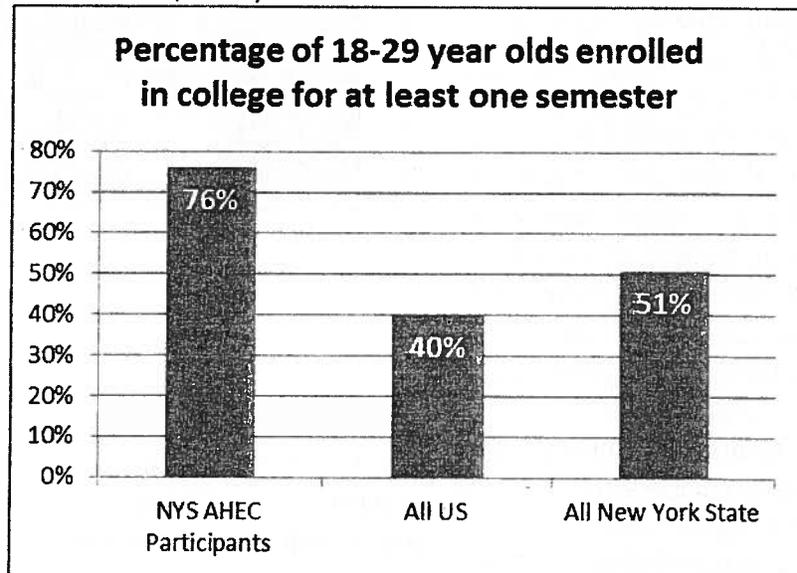
The New York State AHEC System, via nine AHECs, three regional offices and the Statewide Office, has established affiliation agreements, participating school agreements and/or collaborative partnerships with 173 academic institutions; 262 elementary/secondary schools; 412 hospitals/health care systems/clinics/networks; and 282 community and professional organizations/government agencies/businesses to support training, pipeline and/or continuing education programs.

New York State AHEC System Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Evaluation/Outcomes

Short term:
Evaluation instruments used with programs for middle school, high school and post-secondary students 1) measured AHEC students' change in knowledge and awareness of health careers and 2) assessed students' interest in pursuing health professions. Results indicate that students significantly improved scores on the pre/post knowledge of health related careers by about 14% ($p < .001$) on average. The change in score from pre-test to post-test was greater for minority/disadvantaged students when compared to non-disadvantaged whites, suggesting that pipeline programs may be contributing to narrowing the educational disparity experienced by this population. Most students indicated that their interest in health careers was greater after participating in AHEC pipeline programs.

- **Intermediate:** To ascertain college enrollment rates among past AHEC middle/high school students, now age 18 and older, the New York State AHEC System utilized the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) database. The NSC is partnered with more than 3,300 colleges (including 2 and 4 year colleges as well as universities), representing 93% of US college students. The NSC provides details on college enrollment, degrees received, and often includes college major or concentration. Just over three-quarters (75.6%, 2,694) of past AHEC participants (ages 18-29) have attended at least some college. This rate of college enrollment exceeds that of the same age group in New York State (51%) and the US population (40%) (US Department of Education, 2007).



- **Intermediate:** Medical and health professions students in AHEC's SEARCH (Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health) Program indicating probability of practicing in New York State, practicing in an underserved area, and practicing in a rural area increased from pre- to post-community clinical experience or

rotation. Nearly all students agreed or strongly agreed that "Based on this experience, I am now considering working in a medically underserved area."

- **Long term:** AHECs across New York State have success stories about young people working as nurses, technicians, social workers and doctors in underserved areas. In addition, previous AHEC program participants are precepting medical, nursing and health professions students and serving on boards of directors of the community-based AHECs. Adults whose jobs have been eliminated, or who need new skills to keep pace with advancing technologies, or are simply seeking a new career, have benefited from AHEC workforce training and retraining programs.

New York State AHEC System

Report on Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Quarterly reports submitted previously to the New York State Department of Health detailed activities and accomplishments, with quantitative and qualitative measures, consistent with the 2011-12 work plan objectives. The following pages include highlights and/or selected activities for each of the six objectives.

Objective #1:

Expand and support health professions training programs and community-based training experiences for medical students, health professions students and post-secondary students.

Nearly 1,900 medical, nursing and other health professions students received over 400,000 hours of community-based training with over 500 preceptors at 324 AHEC-sponsored community-based training sites. These students, under preceptor supervision, provided care to more than 100,000 patients.

- A total of 125 students (**medicine, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, psychiatric nurse, clinical psychologist and clinical social work**) participated in **four to six week, 120 hour clinical rotations** through HRSA-funded contract for SEARCH (Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health) in partnership with Community Health Care Association of New York State. A majority of SEARCH students (85%) agreed that “Based on this experience I am now considering working in a medically underserved area.” Students also increased cultural competency—as measured by nine skills/characteristics. Students indicating they have a “great deal” of knowledge nearly doubled for all items and increased 600% for “strategies to reduce health disparities.”
- Western New York Rural AHEC (R-AHEC), Northern AHEC, Hudson Mohawk AHEC, Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC), Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC, Bronx-Westchester AHEC, Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC) and Central Region Office implemented incentive programs; **246 medical/health professions students received housing support, 60 students received travel support.**
- CHAHEC continued to support SUNY New Paltz/NY College of Osteopathic Medicine **seven year, BS/DO program** and provided medical practice management seminars.
- New York Metropolitan AHECs provided New York College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) and Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine students with a **10 week Summer Community Health**

Experience (a program in existence since 2005). Students, in diverse community health settings, gained exposure to intercultural concerns and dynamics. NYCOM’s evaluations indicate that students who participated in this program were more likely to specialize in primary care in medically underserved communities.

- New York Metropolitan Region Office partnered with Albert Einstein College of Medicine and New York University School of Medicine on **ECHO Free Clinic** and the **NYC Free Clinic** staffed by medical students.
- BQLI AHEC contracted with Long Island University and the Health and Hospital Corporation – Center for Economic Opportunity to establish a **year round nurse mentoring program** to pair 20 seasoned nurse mentors from health institutions with mentees throughout New York City.
- R-AHEC conducted annual **Summer Interdisciplinary Geriatric Experience Program** for health professions students. The program included didactic and clinical experiences to improve critical thinking skills and develop competencies regarding management of complex patient care.

Objective #2:

Increase quantity, quality and diversity of health professions faculty committed to working with medical, health professions and post-secondary students in medically underserved areas.

Centers, regional offices and the Statewide Office provided 97 faculty development programs and other support activities for 2,659 individuals to meet education needs of faculty and improve clinical quality of instruction with trainees. (These numbers are also reflected in Objective #3.)

- The New York State AHEC System distributed the **Preceptor Toolkit** regarding the patient encounter as a teaching opportunity, preparing for the learner, cultural competence, faculty development and enhancing teaching skills. Online preceptor training is available to all Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) preceptors via the Mountain (North Carolina) AHEC. Trainings can be completed online for continuing education credits.
- All four AHEC regional offices, Central Region/Upstate Medical University, Eastern Region/Albany Medical College, New York Metropolitan Region/Institute for Family Health and Statewide Office/University at Buffalo were awarded **“Doctors Across New York” funding for clinical training of medical students and residents at freestanding ambulatory care sites.**
- Hudson Mohawk AHEC disseminated **“The Teaching Physician”** newsletter, focused on skills training, to participating preceptors. Central Region Office at Upstate Medical University preceptors were offered clinical faculty appointments, access to digital resources of the Health Sciences Library and a free subscription to **“The Teaching Physician.”** Active Upstate Medical University family medicine preceptors were also offered free registration for the annual Family Medicine Refresher Course.
- New York State AHEC System representatives presented a workshop: **Teaching Health Centers & Area Health Education Systems (AHECs): Health Center and AHEC Collaboration with HRSA**

to Build the Primary Care Workforce as part of the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) Statewide Conference & Clinical Forum.

- A total of 14 New York State AHEC System representatives serve as **National Health Service Corps ambassadors.**
- The New York State AHEC System Director of Nursing continued as Chair of the Steering Committee for the NYS Institute (a nursing workforce organization). Other members on this committee represent the Council for Deans and Directors of NYS Nursing programs, the NYS Organization of Nurse Executives, the Executive Director of the NYS Board of Nursing, and a prominent researcher on nursing workforce issues, in addition to the NYS Foundation nursing representatives. Together with the Institute and NYSNA, a **report on nursing faculty capacity** was developed. That survey data report was released in April and was widely distributed to New York State AHEC System, schools of nursing and other entities.
- A HRSA Title VII **“Academic Administrative Units”** was awarded to Central Region Office, to support research infrastructure, including medical education evaluation, training in health disparities research, and other relevant areas.

Objective #3:

Enhance the local health care workforce through continuing education programs for medical and health care professionals, development and support for career ladders, and promotion of programs that support re-entry workers.

A total of 25,245 health professionals, representing medicine, nursing, allied health, pharmacy, social work, management, education and other disciplines, attended 688 continuing education programs.

Topics included administration/leadership/management, primary care, behavioral health, chronic disease, cultural competence/diversity, faculty development, health information technology, long term care, workforce, health disparities/health literacy, nursing, child/adolescent health, and patient safety. Programs were offered through employer and academic institution collaborations using workplace-based workshops, seminars, video conferences, distance learning and web-based programs.

- Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) provided continuing education opportunities for nurse educators and nurses in collaboration with Upstate New York Nursing Staff Development Organization and New York State Nurses Association. The “Nursing Summit: Ethics” provided participants with 5.75 nursing contact hours, and was at full capacity with 103 participants, approximately 60% of whom were nursing students. The program is also available on DVD.
- Central New York AHEC continued to market/add new clients to **InService Solutions**. A total of 14 health care facilities clients and 3,398 individuals used the employee training program on required regulations and certifications. Western New York Rural AHEC (R-AHEC) continued to market to local hospitals, nursing homes, educational institutions and other facilities. Seven (7) of the courses were translated into Spanish and converted to full audio format.
- Northern AHEC’s (NAHEC’s) MyHealthCareers®.org, www.thinktechcareers.org and the Northstar website were updated with career models, earn and learn opportunities, recruitment zones, training programs, labor data, and employers.
- NAHEC continued a strategic partnership with United Helpers, a multi-site health care and human services agency, providing **continuing education and development opportunities** for employees and staff.
- R-AHEC was awarded \$1,037,263 in Healthcare Workforce Retraining Initiative funding to support 2012-13 **nurse leadership trainings, basic computer skills trainings for health professionals, LPN training and Masters in Nurse Specialties** projects.
- CHAHEC and Hudson Mohawk AHEC collaborated on two sessions of an **Emergency Responder Leadership Academy**, “Emergency Care for Individuals with Special Needs...Geriatrics & Pediatrics.”
- Erie Niagara AHEC hosted **HRSA Region II train-the-trainer** session for AHEC staff and community collaborators on the behavioral/mental health needs of veterans, service members and their families. Attendees received a tool kit to help plan their continuing education (CE) session and committed to offering one CE program educating a total of 75-100 individuals by September 2013.
- NAHEC, in collaboration with Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization conducted **Veterans Mental Health** training for 65 health care providers. The training covered military culture, addiction and pain management.
- A total of 1,353 health professionals and health professions students participated in training via the HRSA “**Equipment to Enhance Training of Health Professionals**” technology (video/webinar and mobile technology computer labs).

Objective #4:

Increase elementary, secondary, community college and college students' knowledge and awareness of health careers through pipeline programs that promote medicine and health professions as viable options, particularly for students from disadvantaged and underrepresented minority backgrounds, in order to promote a culturally diverse workforce.

Comprehensive program strategies provided students with exposure to health careers and health professionals and included methods to assess longitudinal effectiveness. A total of 14,977 students (7,369 grades K-8 students, 6,149 grades 9-12 students and 1,459 college students) participated in health careers awareness programs.

- All AHECs conducted Medical Academy of Science and Health Camp (MASH), Middle School Academy for Health Careers, Career Quest, Summer Academy, Health Career Club, Camp Med and/or Exploring the Health Professions programs providing **2,740 middle and high school students with exposure to health careers** via experiential learning with health professionals.
- Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC), Bronx-Westchester AHEC (BWAHEC), Erie Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC), Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC), Northern AHEC (NAHEC) and Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC (MSI AHEC) conducted Summer Scholar/Health Internship/Health Bridge, 6 to 12 week **mentoring and/or job shadow programs for 2,089 high school and college students** introducing them to health professions.
- Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC), HMAHEC, MSI AHEC, NAHEC and Western New York Rural AHEC (R-AHEC) used **MyHealthCareer® (MHC)** website developed by NAHEC, to reach 4,708 middle/high school and college students. MHC offers career information and exploration, assessment of foundational skills, on-line curricula for skill gap training, information on scholarships and tuition assistance, and individual portfolio development.
- R-AHEC's **Honeycomb After School Program** provided 92 elementary and middle school students with activities to improve math/science competencies and an introduction to health careers, funded through Advantage After School, \$1.7 million for five years.
- **HRSA Health Careers Opportunity Program Partnerships:** MSI AHEC – Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New Jersey Medical School and Mount Sinai School of Medicine Center for Multicultural Affairs in North East Region Alliance MedPrep Scholars Program; BWAHEC – Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx Science and Health Opportunities Partnership; ENAHEC – D'Youville College; BQLI AHEC – SUNY Downstate Medical Center.
- The New York Metropolitan Region Office **In-house Health Corps Program** placed 32 college age students in health career positions for 26,824 hours with 14 preceptors.

- MSI AHEC established **Collegiate Health Service Corps** to increase participation of underrepresented minorities in primary care and NHSC via CHCs/health organizations and student learning projects.
- ENAHEC developed **Virtual Mentor**, a new mentor/preceptor strategy, designed for students not currently supported by the traditional school and mentor resources.
- CNYAHEC held **Healthcare Olympiad** at SUNY Upstate Medical University for 14 student teams/70 high school students who addressed health care issues from an interdisciplinary team perspective.
- ENAHEC partnered with public television station WNED's **Be Healthy, Be Smart Career Fair**. Members of the ENAHEC Alafia Theatre portrayed conductors from the Underground Railroad and led the 425 students in groups to each of the vendors (academic institutions and employers).

Objective #5:

Assess and respond to the health workforce needs of New York State at the regional, county and where possible, at the sub-county level.

- The New York State AHEC System continued its on-line **Data Warehouse** with socio-demographic, health, educational and workforce data to assist AHECs with grant proposals, HPSA designations and other efforts. Comprehensive data sets include counties, ZIP codes, census tracts, minor civil divisions, HPSAs, MUA/Ps, legislative districts and school districts. Updates included population, unemployment, housing, workforce projections and general/health education.
- The New York Metropolitan Region Office/Institute for Family Health received **HRSA funding to support new Harlem and expanded Mid-Hudson Teaching Health Centers**. These programs seek to address the critical shortage of primary care physicians by training physicians to provide outstanding care to patients of all ages using the community health center model of service delivery.
- The Director of Nursing continued work on a **data collaborative regarding nursing quality indicators** in Buffalo hospitals, funded by the John R. Oishei Foundation with \$100,000 and in kind contributions by hospital members. Data collection began in February 2011, initial data reports were developed and distributed and a project update webinar is expected in fall 2012. Members are also working to secure additional funding.
- Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) continued its **HealthMatch community specific health professions recruitment** service designed specifically for small and rural communities in New York State, to effectively match primary care providers with communities in need. This project expanded to include dentists via the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Dental Health/HRSA Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities contract.
- Erie Niagara AHEC's President **chairs the Data Collection Committee** of the Pursuing Perfection (P2) Collaborative focused on identifying ways to improve collection of race, ethnicity and language data.
- **New York State AHEC System representatives met with Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy**. Topics of discussion included need for health providers in underserved areas and initiatives to increase health workforce diversity. The Lieutenant Governor was particularly interested in AHEC interventions with high school students and entry-level workers. AHEC representatives outlined how health workforce development programs intersect with priorities of Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs). The Lieutenant Governor sent a letter to REDC Co-Chairs regarding potential to establish new partnerships and strengthen existing collaborations with the New York State AHEC System.
- The New York State AHEC System hosted **Dental Workforce Conferences** in New York City, Albany and Fairport, for dental residents and dental students focused on Working in an Underserved Area, National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment and Primary Care Service Corps Loan Repayment and Transition to Associate/Owner. The sessions were provided via the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Dental Health/HRSA Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities funding.
- **Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and AHEC collaborations** include membership on WIB Boards (CHAHEC), subcommittees (Western New York Rural AHEC – R-AHEC) and joint grant development (R-AHEC and Northern AHEC). Hudson Mohawk AHEC participates in Talent Pipeline of the Greater Capital Region WIB.

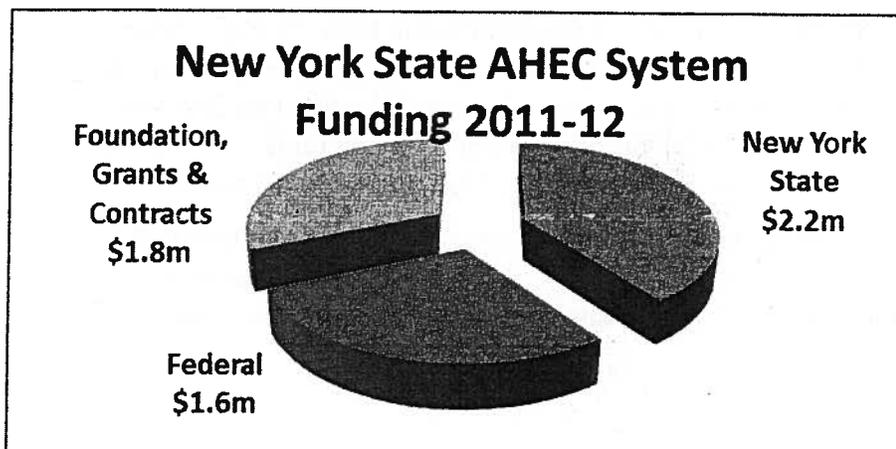
Objective #6:

Enhance statewide support for centers and regions and dynamic needs-based Area Health Education Center System.

The \$2.2 million in 2011-12 state funding to the New York State AHEC System leveraged a workforce development initiative projected at approximately \$6 million (through federal, local, community and private foundation funding) invested in training programs, services and jobs in medically underserved rural and urban communities.

- The **New York State AHEC System Advisory Board** met October 2011 and March 2012 to address “Health Workforce and the Economy” and “Outcomes, Policy Priorities and Emerging Issues.”
- A **five year strategic plan** with goals, objectives, activities and evaluation strategies was developed as a foundation for the New York State AHEC System continuing, competing application to the Health Resources and Services Administration for federal Point of Service and Enhancement AHEC funding for 2012-17.
- Western New York Rural (R-AHEC) is an awardee for \$5.9 million in FCC funding over three years, to **build out broad band capabilities** of 40 small rural hospitals and connect them with health care systems in Buffalo and Rochester to provide capacity for EMRs, telemedicine, grand rounds and CME applications.
- Northern AHEC (NAHEC) licensed its **MyHealthCareer®** database driven website. Five (four in New York, eight in Indiana) AHECs maintain MyHealthCareer® licenses. NAHEC continued its work with Maine, Kentucky, Montana and Florida.
- R-AHEC received \$45,000 from Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo Thiel Fund for **pipeline programming** and a \$260,268 multi-year **telemedicine** grant from the USDA for Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine.
- Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC subcontracted (\$40,000 annually/three years) to Long Island University for HRSA nursing diversity grant to **increase Hispanic/Latino nursing students**.

- With support from the National AHEC Organization, NAHEC CEO conducted **Social Enterprise Initiative** seminars that provided information, instruction, tools, and templates for AHEC personnel.
- New York State AHEC System Director served as **President, National AHEC Organization (NAO) 2011-12**; MSI AHEC Executive Director served as **President-Elect, NAO 2011-12**. New York State AHEC System Founding/Medical Director is a member of the **ACGME Residency Review Committee**. Catskill Hudson AHEC Executive Director and R-AHEC CEO continued as Governor’s appointments to the **New York State Rural Health Council**.



- **New York State AHEC System Director met with William Kraus, Acting Director of New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs** to discuss AHEC’s “Behavioral/Mental Health of Veterans/Service Members & Families” initiative as well as other statewide and local AHEC programs that might intersect with veteran outreach and services.