

Testimony

Joint Legislative Public Hearing
2017-2018 Budget
Health/Medicaid

February 16, 2017

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Director, NYS Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System

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.

My name is Leishia Smallwood. I am the Director of the New York State Area Health Education Center System, commonly referred to as AHEC.

I am excitingly relieved that we are included in the 2017-18 Executive Budget proposal for continued level funding of \$2,077,000. However, the excitement of the New York State AHEC System to have support through the consideration of continued level funding, is overshadowed by the concern of the proposed consolidation funding for all programming, with combined and reduced grant buckets. Therefore, I am humbly seeking the same effort for us to remain as a separate sole source funded program, as awarded in last year's budget proposal. As always, we want to thank the New York State Assembly and Senate for your continuing support of sole source funding for the New York State AHEC System, including last year's full funding restoration for our health career exposure and exploration programs.

State funds not only help our nine centers, three regional offices and the Statewide Office recruit and help train the next generation of health professionals to work in underserved rural and urban communities, state funds serve as the required match to our federal funding. State funding is an excellent return on investment – our funding consists of approximately one-third State dollars, one-third federal funds and one-third Grants/Other.

While we are grateful for level funding it would be incorrect to tell you that we have enough funding to reverse New York's shortage of primary care providers. Since 2008, state funding to the NYS AHEC System has decreased by 17% while at the same time inflation has risen by 13%. We realize that the budget process is a tough time when legislators choose priorities from a state full of worthy programs. We believe expanding efforts to "Grow Our Own" professionals to provide critical health services – professionals like doctors, nurse practitioners and nurses, physician assistants, social workers, dentists and pharmacists – is worthy of additional investment. "Grow Our Own" programs for secondary and post-secondary students are a long-term solution to primary care shortages and increasing the diversity of the health care sector in New York State.

We are all aware that there is a transformation underway in New York and across the county in the way we expect the health system to deliver patient-centered care with increased efficiency. There is no way to accomplish the goals of DSRIP - Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program; PHIP – Population Health Improvement Program and SHIP – State Health Innovation Plan without an adequate supply of well-trained medical and allied health professionals. The workforce is the most important part of the health care infrastructure and it needs adequate investment.

The New York State AHEC System is deeply involved in all of the Department of Health initiatives mentioned above and is a consistent voice emphasizing that these programs must include recruiting and training of future health professionals who will carry on health system transformation. As neutral brokers with more than fifteen years of health workforce development, AHECs work with students at all age levels and convene community-based collaborations with health professions schools and health institutions to improve access to care.

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

- A total of 4,800 elementary and middle school students, nearly 8,200 high school students and nearly 550 college students participated in experiential health careers programs with health care providers in your districts. These programs include Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs competitively awarded through the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.
- More than 2,400 medical, nursing and other health professions students were trained by 523 preceptors/faculty in AHEC-sponsored community-based sites (community health centers, hospitals, clinics and private practices) with an emphasis on underserved communities.
- Over 12,500 health professionals received continuing education training in 560 workshops, seminars, conferences and distance learning programs. Retraining initiatives provided health professions training for adult career-changers, displaced and re-entry workers. Several AHECs participate in the Department of Health's Health Workforce Retraining Initiative.

In addition to these numbers, our short-term, intermediate and long-term successes are described our 2015-16 Annual Report, included within your packet. By tracking students into college and beyond to a health career, we have evidence that demonstrates AHEC programs make a difference.

The best way to understand the true impact of AHEC is to talk to our students and hear firsthand how AHEC changed their lives by providing support, mentorship and hands-on experiences that led to or is leading to a health career and a focus on underserved populations. I would be happy to set up an opportunity for you to talk with AHEC participants back in your districts.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak about the New York State Area Health Education Center System (AHEC) and thank you for your continued support.

YOUR PRIORITIES ARE OUR PRIORITIES!



Eliminate consolidation and competition among public health programs.

Reinstate NYS Line Item Funding for the New York State AHEC System

We connect students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health!

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS!

Your support of AHEC has resulted in successful community-based statewide recruitment, training and retention programs in the growing field of health care. **If the budget is cut, we will serve fewer members of our community—fewer students and job seekers will be a part of the AHEC “grow your own” strategy, less clinical rotations will be coordinated in underserved communities, and education for current healthcare professionals will decrease.**

Without funding, the NYS AHEC System will fail in our mission to enhance the distribution and supply of diverse and qualified healthcare professionals throughout NYS. ***Without the NYS AHEC System, NYS will continue to struggle to ensure that all communities and constituents have equal access to quality healthcare.***

Reinstate line item funding of \$2.1 million for the NYS AHEC System to support quality community programming in the FY 2017-18 Budget!

We Provide Healthcare Career Exposure

NYS AHEC System is a leader in providing pipeline programs that expose students (9-12 and College) to health careers. We focus on primary care and public health careers with students who are from disadvantaged and/or underrepresented backgrounds to promote a more culturally diverse workforce in our community.



We Enhance Clinical Training

We support clinical training in rural and underserved locations, which ensures that future healthcare professionals are trained and skilled within diverse settings. **Future practitioners are more likely to select locations that resemble areas in which their training occurred, and thus increase their investment in the local community.**



We Support Continuing Education

NYS AHEC System improves the quality of health care delivery to underserved communities through continuing education that helps the current health care workforce improve their skills within a transforming health care delivery system.

During 2015-2016
**NYS Support
Funded:**

15,162

Health professionals
enrolled in NYS AHEC
Continuing Education Programs

13,719

Grade 9-12 Students
engaged in NYS AHEC
Pipeline Programs

2,663

Medical & Health Care Students
placed at NYS AHEC rotations in
Underserved or Rural communities

NYS AHEC System Impact

Across New York State

60% of all NYS AHEC pipeline participants earned a postsecondary degree from a college or university.

State funding into the NYS AHEC System returns a **threefold investment** in training programs, services, and jobs in medically underserved rural and urban communities.

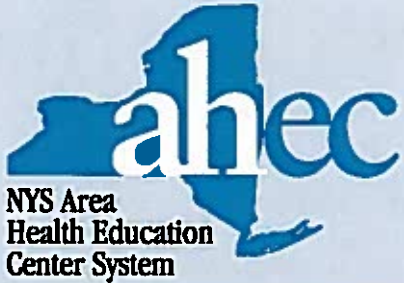


Stands for Jobs
NATIONAL AHEC ORGANIZATION

NYS AHEC System Statewide Office

77 Goodell St., Suite 220, Buffalo, NY
P | (716) 816-7225 F | (716) 845-6899
www.ahec.buffalo.edu

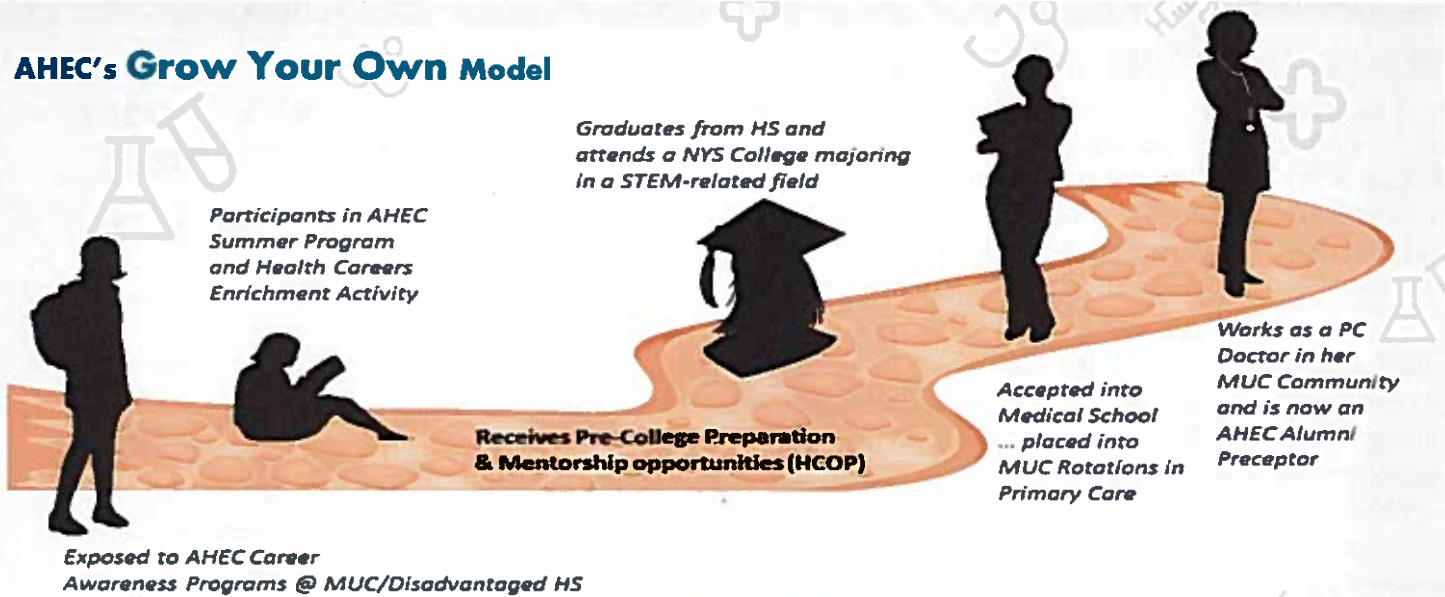




NYS AHEC System

Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health

AHEC's Grow Your Own Model



Wherever you are, AHEC is here for YOU

- Northern AHEC**
1 Main St. Canton, NY 13617
Phone: (315) 379-7701
www.myhealthcareer.org
- Western New York Rural AHEC**
20 Duncan St., PO Box 15, Warsaw, NY 14569
Phone: (585) 786-8275
www.r-ahec.org
- Erie Niagara AHEC**
34 Benwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14214
Phone: (716) 835-9356
www.eniagaraahec.org
- Central New York AHEC**
17 Main St., Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: (607) 759-1090
www.cnyahec.com
- Manhattan Staten Island AHEC**
127 West 127th St., New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212) 534-2432
www.msiahec.org
- Brooklyn-Queens Long Island AHEC**
408 Jay St., Suite 504 Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone: (718) 797-1558
www.bqliahec.org
- Hudson Mohawk AHEC**
333 Glen St. Glens Falls, NY 12801
Phone: (518) 480-2432
www.gohealthcareer.org
- Catskill Hudson AHEC**
598 State Route 299, Highland, NY 12528
Phone: (845) 883-7260
www.chahec.org
- Bronx Westchester AHEC**
250 Bedford Park Blvd West, Bronx, NY 10468
Phone: (718) 960-7843
www.bwahec.org
- Bronx Westchester AHEC**
www.bwahec.org

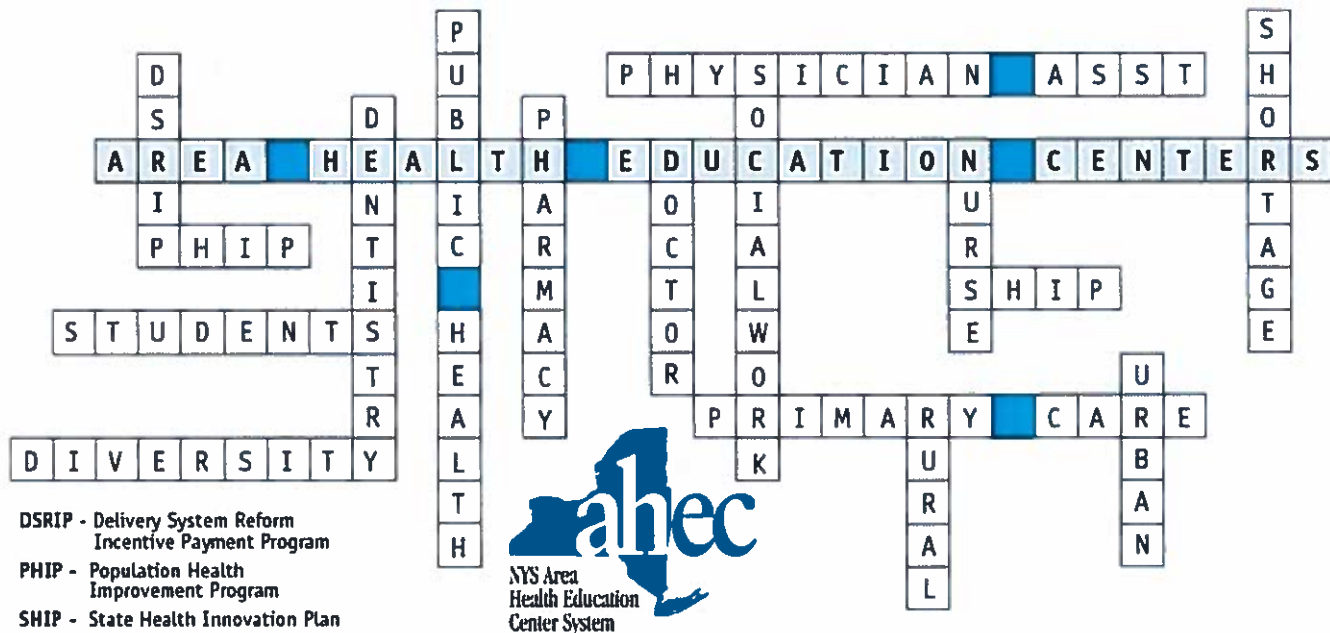
☆ AHEC site locations
⊙ AHEC Regional Offices
○ AHEC Statewide Office

NYS AHEC System Statewide Office

77 Goodell St., Suite 220, Buffalo, NY
P | (716) 816-7225 F | (716) 845-6899
www.ahec.buffalo.edu

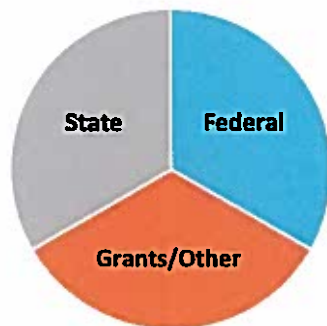


AHEC: Central to Building the Health Workforce for New York State



The New York State AHEC System is a proven health workforce leader...from pipeline to practice...with cost-effective, outcomes-driven strategies that keep skills and talents in New York.

- Develop a diverse, skilled and dedicated workforce across all sectors and disciplines of health care.
- Recruit people of all ages — especially from underserved and minority communities, both urban and rural — to health careers.
- Place students and interns in underserved communities, where they are more likely to work after training. Their understanding of diverse cultures helps to improve care and reduce health disparities.
- Provide continuing education/professional support to practitioners, develop career ladders and promote workforce re-entry programs for displaced workers.



State funding for AHEC is an excellent return on investment. State funding is required to leverage federal funding and other grants/contracts.

Workforce Is the Infrastructure of the Health Care System

- Provider shortages already limit access to care; forecasted growth will further strain the health care system.
- The New York State AHEC System’s nine independent community-based centers, three regional offices and the Statewide Office have more than 15 years of health workforce development experience serving as a neutral broker with all health care disciplines and organizations.
- New York State is transforming primary care with federal/state dollars. Without adequate support for health career pipeline programs, reform initiatives could be delayed as professionals are already in short supply.

- * Retain \$2,077,000 for the NYS AHEC System
- * Prioritize additional investment in “Grow our Own” health professions programs — a long-term solution to primary care shortages and increasing the diversity of the health care sector in New York State.

New York State AHEC System Statewide Office University at Buffalo Department of Family Medicine www.ahec.buffalo.edu





NYS Area
Health Education
Center System

The New York State AHEC System — comprised of nine AHECs, three regional offices and the Statewide Office — implements 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 community-academic partnerships.

“Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health.”



Northern AHEC, Canton, NY
www.northernahec.org



Hudson Mohawk AHEC, Glens Falls, NY
www.gohhealthcareer.org



Catskill Hudson AHEC
Highland, NY www.chahec.org



Bronx-Westchester AHEC
Bronx, NY www.bwahec.org



Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC
Brooklyn, NY www.bqliahec.org



Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC
Brooklyn, NY www.bqliahec.org



Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC
New York, NY www.msiahec.org



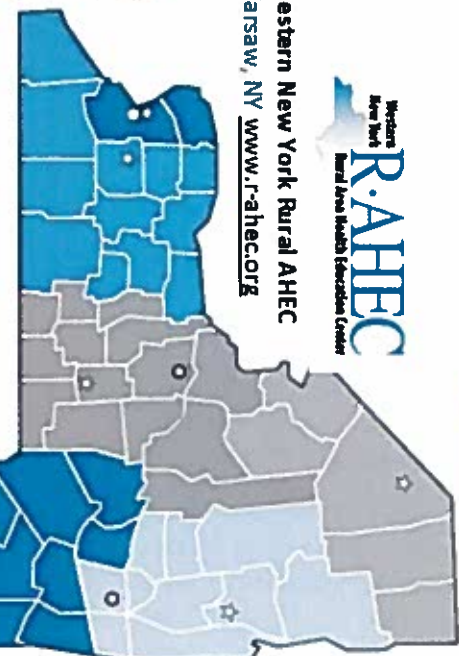
Central New York AHEC
Cortland, NY www.cnyahec.org



Western New York Rural AHEC
Watson, NY www.r-ahec.org



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Watson, NY www.r-ahec.org



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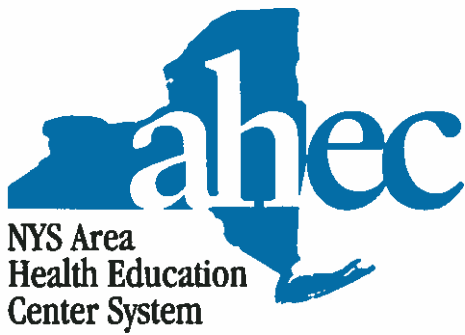
☆ AHEC State Offices
○ AHEC Regional Offices
○ AHEC Statewide Office

Central Region Office at
Upstate Medical University

Eastern Region Office at
Albany Medical College

NY Metropolitan Region Office at
Institute for Family Health

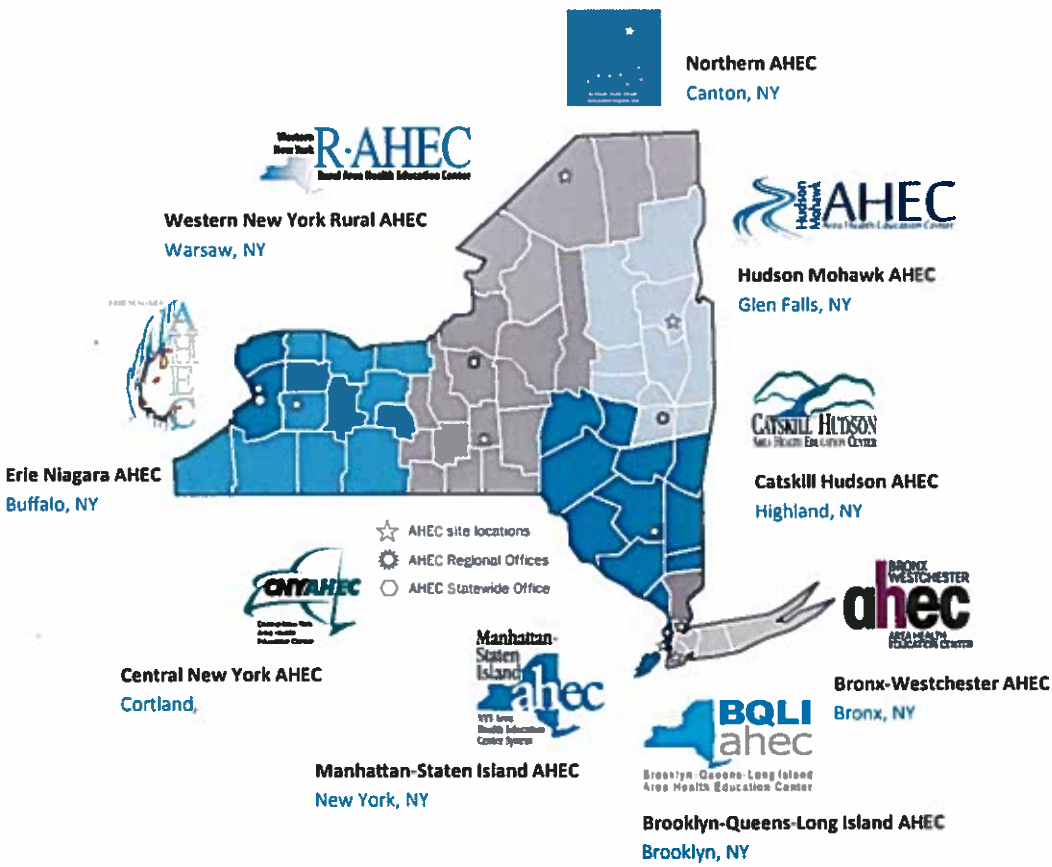
STATEWIDE OFFICE/UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO
www.ahec.buffalo.edu



Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

NEW YORK STATE AHEC SYSTEM

**“Connecting Students to Careers, Professionals to Communities,
and Communities to Better Health”**



Central Region Office at Upstate Medical University	Eastern Region Office at Albany Medical College	NY Metropolitan Region Office at Institute for Family Health
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Statewide Office at the University at Buffalo

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Statewide Office
University at Buffalo,
Dept. of Family Medicine
77 Goodell St, Suite 220
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716-816-7225
www.ahec.buffalo.edu

The New York State AHEC System, comprised of nine AHECs, three regional offices and the Statewide Office, implements community-based strategies that cultivate a more diverse health workforce, address health workforce shortages — particularly primary care, and improve access to quality health care for all New Yorkers.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

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.

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/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 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.



Purpose/Need

According to 2016 HRSA data, there are approximately 3.3 million New Yorkers identified as residing in areas designated as "underserved" for primary care services in New York's nearly 180 primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).^[1] It would require over 600 additional primary care practitioners in these areas to remove the shortage status. Additionally, nearly three times as many physicians practice in a metropolitan area than rural locations. Moreover, the NYS Department of Labor projects that NYS healthcare sector will account for one of the largest growth areas, roughly 20.8% of all employees, within the next decade.^[2] As such, the NYS AHEC System's recruitment, training and retention strategies are solutions to current and future workforce needs.

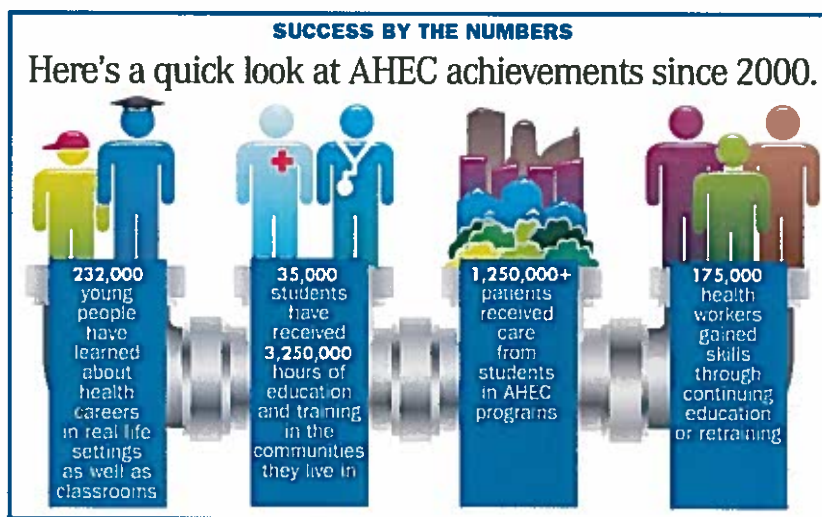
- [1] Health Professional Shortage Areas by Geographic Area-New York. (2016). [Interactive Map]. HRSA Data Warehouse. Retrieved from <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/topics/shortageAreas.aspx>
- [2] New York State physicians in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan HPSAs, 2000. (2007) [Chart]. Retrieved from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2231638/>.
- [3] New York State Department of Labor: Long Term Industry Employment Projections, 2012-2022. [Chart]. Retrieved from <https://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/lspjro.shtm>.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Overview: Outreach 2015-16

- ◆ Roughly 4,800 elementary and middle school students, nearly 8,200 high school students and approximately 550 college students participated in health careers programs.
- ◆ Over 2,400 medical, nursing and health professions students were trained over 500 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 12,500 health professionals received continuing education training via 560 workshops, seminars, conferences and distance learning programs/series. 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.

Alignment with NYS Department of Health Priorities

- ◆ Since August of 2012, the New York State AHEC System has been monitoring, responding to and making recommendations to the New York State Department of Health about the \$6.2 billion Medicaid Waiver now referred to as the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program. Interventions include increasing access to primary care services and the necessary workforce training and re-training necessary for these initiatives. Several AHECs are subcontractors to one or more PPSs for episodic and/or ongoing work over the next five years.
- ◆ The New York State AHEC System continued its representation on the statewide Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program/ State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP) Workforce Workgroup regarding DSRIP workforce transformation, MRT Workforce Workgroup recommendations, Rural Residency Program, telehealth and care coordination.
- ◆ R-AHEC signed a 2 yr contract with Millennium Collaborative Care, a DSRIP PPS, for Health Workforce Development Services for \$706,868.
- ◆ Northern AHEC Director serves as Lead Consultant to three PPSs (Care Compass Network; Central New York Care Collaborative; and Leatherstocking Collaborative Health Partners). With respect to DSRIP involvement, she advises the New York State Department of Health as well as PPS partners on various matters.
- ◆ Longstanding AHEC participation in Health Workforce Retraining Initiative included awards to R-AHEC, HMAHEC, NAHEC and the Institute for Family Health/NY Metropolitan Region.

Making all of New York state a Campus:

The New York State AHEC System has established affiliation agreements, participating school agreements and/or collaborative partnerships (to support training, pipeline and/or continuing education programs) with:

- 219 academic institutions;*
- 315 elementary/secondary schools;*
- 442 hospitals/health care systems/clinics/networks; and*
- 394 community and professional organizations/government agencies/businesses.*

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

"Through AHEC, I had my first opportunity to work in a physical therapy office (which I returned to on my own the next summer). I applied and was accepted to a variety of graduate Doctor of Physical Therapy programs and am now enrolled in Stony Brook University."

BW AHEC participant

"Going to MedQuest opened my eyes to all the careers in health care and helped me to decide that it is what I want to go into."

CNY AHEC participant

"With AHEC I was able to experience working with professionals [in bioinformatics], an opportunity that inspired my future."

ENAHEC participant

"The internship with AHEC greatly helped to solidify my desire to pursue a career in medicine. I will be starting medical school in the fall at the New York Institute of Technology-College of Osteopathic Medicine."

MSI AHEC participant

Evaluation

New and enhanced New York State AHEC System database

In November 2015, the NYS AHEC System updated to a cloud-based data management system called AHEC Tracker. AHEC Tracker was created by Healthmonix and has been used for many years by other organizations. Tracker has evolved based upon input from many users, as well as the evolution of the government reporting requirements by HRSA. AHEC Tracker provides a data management and participant tracking system that: gathers and reports the AHEC program data needed for required federal reports and funding requests; calculates and formats BHPR reports per the HRSA guidance; tracks participants and programs in all AHEC areas (i.e., professional education and community and practice support); documents longitudinal interactions with program participants and participant outcomes (i.e., tracking year to year); evolves as data demands, programs and funding agency expectations shift; operates with no special software to install and provides secure access for authorized users from multiple locations, accessible with an internet connection; and supports administrative functions including standard and custom report generation, contact management and tabular and graphic data presentation.



Data collected by the NYS AHEC System

Individual data is collected from all students participating in pipeline programs that are 4 or more hours. This includes demographics, socioeconomic data, previous exposure to math/science enrichment programs, residence, career plans and perception of the program. Health professions rotation participants provide the same information along with intended practice location upon completion (NYS, underserved, rural/urban/suburban, etc.). Each participant is provided a unique identification/tracking number in the cloud-based database. This information is accessible in real time across the state for modification/updates, etc. Through the database and standardized evaluation instruments, the New York State AHEC System provides the required information on workforce recruitment, training activities, retention, intended practice location, and trainee characteristics, such as disadvantaged background, race and ethnic diversity.

Intermediate Outcomes

The New York State AHEC System Statewide Office continues to implement longitudinal tracking via National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to ascertain college enrollment rates for past AHEC middle/high school students, now age 18 and older. The NSC is partnered with more than 3,300 colleges (2 and 4 year colleges as well as universities), representing 93% of US college students. NSC provides details on college enrollment; degrees received, and often includes college major or concentration. Further data analysis in summer 2016 will look at New York State AHEC System pipeline program participant demographics, graduation data, and majors, as well as, type of degree and length/type of program(s) they participated in through the NYS AHEC System.

Faces of AHEC

During the September 2015 and February 2016 legislative open house in Albany, we featured Faces of AHEC students in order to showcase the purpose and mission of AHEC. Individual Faces of AHEC posters were designed for every center, consisting of a student's photo, their AHEC program involvement, career goals and a short quote about the impact of AHEC on his/her pursuit of a career in the health professions. We also invited two past AHEC participants to share their stories with legislative members and staff. They spoke about how the New York State AHEC System influenced their decisions to become health professionals in underserved communities.



Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Health Professions Students

- ◆ **Rotation sites included community health centers, ambulatory care sites, hospitals and veterans affairs health care offices** including NY Metropolitan Region Office/Institute for Family Health (IFH) medical student rotations at Echo Free Clinic (Einstein) and NYC Free Clinic (NYU), social work placements at IFH Psychosocial Program and Eastern Region Office/Albany Medical College (AMC) with Hudson Valley Community College team-based training for medical students and nurses at AMC's simulation center.
- ◆ NY Metropolitan Region AHECs provided 2 NY Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) students with a **six week Community Health Experience (CHE)**. Students served in diverse community health settings and gained exposure to intercultural concerns and dynamics. CHE, in existence since 2005, has past NYITCOM evaluations showing CHE students were more likely to specialize in primary care in medically underserved communities.
- ◆ Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC), Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC), Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC) and Northern AHEC (NAHEC) provided 76 medical/health professions students with **housing support**. R-AHEC manages two facilities that house students in community rotations.
- ◆ Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC) continued its **Rural Immersion Projects**. Students spend five days shadowing providers at hospitals and community agencies while exploring rural community life and identifying public health issues, including health care access. CNYAHEC continues to collaborate with Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC to students to a more rural setting. CNYAHEC partners with Wells College, River Hospital, and Oswego Hospital to provide training sites in various communities.
- ◆ Each NYS AHEC System center and regional office have staff who are **National Health Service Corps NHSC Ambassadors**. Each ambassador assists with increasing placements at sites with NHSC providers and informs students of scholarship/loan repayment options.
- ◆ R-AHEC, subcontractor to UB for **Doctors Across NY** through June 30, 2016, coordinated resident and medical student training at a freestanding ambulatory care site. A total of 21 students have completed rotations since August 2013.
- ◆ NY Metropolitan Region Office/Institute for Family Health (IFH) in-house **Health Corps Program** had 19 college age students in one-year health positions, totaling 20,837 hours with 19 preceptors.
- ◆ NAHEC and CNYAHEC continue to use EXXAT to **facilitate clinical rotation placements** and integrate with MyHealthCareer®, social media, EduCare and InService Solutions.
- ◆ In response to LeMoyne College's **pre-placement training needs for physician assistant students**, CNYAHEC maintains 16 compliance courses via EduCareCE. A total of 77 students completed the courses within the last reporting period.
- ◆ **Family medicine/public health elective** at Central Region Office (CRO)/Upstate Medical University enrolled roughly 200 students in 2015-16. The MPH/MD course combines standardized patient case with clinical training and didactics, focused on social determinants and bio psychosocial care of disadvantaged, multi-morbid patients.
- ◆ **Health professions and health-related students trained by AHEC staff:** NYS AHEC System Director of Evaluation's Understanding Statistical Research to graduate University of Buffalo Rehabilitation Counseling students, NAHEC/CNYAHEC CEO's Medical Anthropology, Foundations of Interprofessional Education, Issues in Clinical Care and Pathophysiology classes at SUNY Potsdam in addition to Communication lectures at Clarkson University, and Erie Niagara AHEC President's "HIV in the Classroom" for graduate education students at Buffalo State College.
- ◆ **Health professions student scholarships:** CNYAHEC's L. Thomas Wolff (\$1,000), NAHEC's Bruce Potter Memorial (\$1,000) and HMAHEC's one \$1,000 and two \$500 awards.

Objective #1:

Expand and support health professions training programs and community-based training experiences in underserved areas for medical students, health professions students and post-secondary students, particularly those from New York State high schools and post-secondary schools.

A total of 2,401 medical, nursing and other health professions students received 274,048 hours of community-based training with over 500 preceptors. A total of 64 residents completed 107,960 hours of community-based training, and a total of 198 health professions students received 38,717 hours in non-rotation and/or didactic training programs.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

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.

To meet faculty education needs and improve clinical trainee instruction, regional offices and the NYS AHEC System Statewide Office/University at Buffalo provided 71 faculty development programs and other support activities. (These numbers are also reflected in Objective #3.)

Faculty Development

- ◆ The Statewide Office/UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and NY Metropolitan Region/Institute for Family Health (IFH) were leaders in faculty development/grand rounds sessions on primary care, behavioral health, chronic disease, health equity, HIT, clinical practice information, health promotion and disease prevention and health reform/issues. IFH coordinates Grand Rounds at Beth Israel (29 participants) and Family Health Center of Harlem (32 participants) and provides nearly 60 trainings for social work interns (400+ participants) and their preceptors.
- ◆ CRO/Upstate preceptors are offered subscriptions to "The Teaching Physician," clinical faculty appointments, library privileges and free registration for the annual Family Medicine Teaching Days. Eastern Region/Albany Medical College preceptors receive access to AMC library and are annually awarded 20 AAFP CME hours. HMAHEC assisted preceptors with faculty appointment applications.
- ◆ The Family Medicine faculty development program at CRO/Upstate continued to focus on scholarly projects, grants and curricular innovations/evaluations to improve educational activities and increase chances for promotion and tenure. This group includes CRO Director/Vice Chair for Research and CRO Medical Director/ Department Chair and six faculty at rank of assistant professor or instructor.
- ◆ NYS AHEC System Director of Evaluation, Shannon Carlin-Menter, PhD, continued as evaluator for The National Center for Physician Training in Addiction Medicine, directed by Richard Blondell, MD, Professor of Family Medicine, University at Buffalo. The purpose of the Center is to expand education and training of physicians in addiction medicine, with a special emphasis on prevention/screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment, for adolescents and young adults.

Admission Policy Change Outcome

In 2008, the Central Region Office (CRO)/Upstate Medical University changed admissions policies to be more advantageous to New York State residents, particularly those from rural/urban underserved areas to recruiting those more likely to return to those communities. Since then, the CRO Director and other Upstate Family Medicine faculty continued supplemental interviews of applicants with rural career interests and identified those from rural areas. They also actively participate in the Multiple Mini-Interview process administered to all Upstate MD program applicants. For Academic Year (AY) 2015, the Rural Medical Education program coordinator, partially supported by AHEC, also served on the Admissions Committee. This change in admission policy and continued AHEC involvement has provided excellent results in recruiting students from New York State and those from rural areas. Prior evaluations indicate over a majority of matriculated MD students came from NYS. Moreover a large sub percentage of those students came from rural areas.

Nursing Workforce

- ◆ NYS AHEC System Director of Nursing Carol S. Brewer, PhD, RN, FAAN evaluated nursing workforce needs and disseminated workforce assessments. Dr. Brewer participated on IMPACT Advisory Group for Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and was a member of the national HRSA NACNEP group. She also analyzed the most recent NYS nursing workforce data collected by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, using the New York State subsample. Dr. Brewer presented the NYS AHEC System Center level reports on enrollment and graduation data provided by the Center for Health Workforce Studies.
- ◆ Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) Nursing Workforce Development Coordinator is Co-Lead for the NYS Action Coalition's Northern Metropolitan Region (NorMet) Future of Nursing and Chair of the NorMet Outreach Committee which continues to promote the "Aspiring Nurse Protégé" self-directed toolkit for use by RNs in BSN programs. She is also working with two Jonas Scholars on a Nurse Leadership program.
- ◆ The University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing continues to utilize CNYAHEC's EduCareCE to manage resources, including the Doctorate of Nursing Practice Leadership Course, Population Health Toolkit for faculty/students, Health Literacy Toolkit and DynaMed reference tool.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Continuing Education Programs

- ◆ First responders received CE via AHEC programming. Catskill Hudson AHEC's (CHAHEC's) Columbia-Greene **EMS Education Day** served 43 emergency services and emergency room professionals. CHAHEC's two-day **Emergency Responder Leadership Academy** hosted 52 participants, and focused on identifying leadership and the skills needed to effectively manage responsibilities.
- ◆ Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC) continued to add **InService Solutions (ISS)** clients. Over 4,800 individuals completed roughly 26,900 hours of training from 17 modules (all 30 minutes). Other AHECs collaborated with CNYAHEC to market ISS to institutions and health care facilities to allow staff/students to stay current on required regulations and certifications.
- ◆ CHAHEC co-sponsored: **Bassett Healthcare's Annual Critical Care Conference** (77 participants) and **Annual Nursing Summit** (76 attendees). Participants received 5.25 Nursing CE credits.
- ◆ NYS AHEC System Health Workforce Retraining Initiative (HWRI) activities **support career ladders and workforce re-entry**. NY Metropolitan Region Office/Institute for Family Health (IFH) trained over 3,500 clinical and nonclinical staff to implement team-based coordinated care. Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC) offered **Basic Computer Skills, LPN Training, Nurse Leadership and Data Analytics** to over 1,100 staff. Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC) offered **Care Management**
- and **Front Office Manager Leadership Skills** trainings for nearly 100 staff.
- ◆ NYS AHEC System Statewide Office is an awardee of National AHEC Organization (NAO) grant in partnership with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with a goal to **improve HPV immunization rates** of 11 and 12 year-old males and females by improving clinician training and understanding of vaccine. Expected outcomes are a decrease in parents who report their child's provider did not recommend HPV vaccine and increase in HPV immunization rates. NAO is one of four awardees, with American Cancer Society, American Academy of Pediatrics and Academic Pediatric Association. John Epling, Jr, MD, Central Region Office/Upstate Medical Director, has presented to over 115 primary care professionals.
- ◆ CHAHEC collaborated with Touro College of Medicine and local provider offices to present "**Health Professions Seminar on LGBTQ Healthcare.**" The 8 hour conference was attended by over 50 participants, and received tremendously positive reviews.
- ◆ The Central Region Office (CRO)/Upstate Medical University is implementing a NYS DOH-sponsored program to **increase colorectal, breast and cervical cancer screening** in community practices through CME-carrying Academic Detailing and Practice Facilitation activities. Contracted by Health Research, Inc. CRO will partner with University of Rochester, University at Buffalo and several AHECs.

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 12,567 professionals representing medicine, nursing, allied health, pharmacy, social work, management, education and other disciplines, attended 561 programs. Programs were offered via employer and academic institution collaborations using workplace-based workshops and seminars, video conferences and distance learning.

Selected Continuing Education/Faculty Development Programs

Topic	No. of Programs	No. of Participants
Behavioral Health	8	782
Chronic Disease	6	125
Clinical Practice Information	5	124
Cultural Competencies/Health Disparities	17	797
Health Information Technology	104	1,316
Interprofessional Education	11	138
Leadership Training/ Management	4	189
Pain Management	5	117
Primary Care	12	653
Substance Abuse/Prescription Drug Abuse	11	315

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Continuing Education Spotlight – Health Professions Seminars

Nursing Summit

On October 22, CHAHEC held their annual Nursing Summit at the Henry A. Wallace Center in the FDR Library at Hyde Park. There were 76 attendees and six preceptors. The program awarded 5.25 nursing continuing education credits. Presentations focused on achieving the "Triple Aim" and the NYS Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) projects of several institutions and how these projects will impact the nursing profession. Speakers included: NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (keynote), discussing DSRIP with her Chief of Staff, Allison Horan; Kirsty Digger, DNS, RN, CEN, discussing health technologies; Joan Cusack-McGuirk, RN, BSN, MA, NEA-BC, Interim CEO of St. Luke's-Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh; Susan Apold, PhD, ANP-BC, FAAN, FAANP; and Connie Jastremski, RN, MS, MBA, ANP, also discussing DSRIP. Jonas Scholar and Pace University Doctor of Nursing Practice student, Kathleen Boyle, presented a nurse leadership project in which Roxy Raffa, CHAHEC's Nursing Workforce Development Coordinator had provided assistance. Overall, participants rated the training positively with 96% of the participants expressing the alignment of information taught with applicable clinical practice skills. Ninety five percent of participants rated the overall teaching strategies as either excellent or good. When asked to provide comments on the program, some participants said:

- ◆ "Excellent program. Highlighted the realities of today's healthcare environment in New York State as well as national."
- ◆ "This is my second year attending AHEC's Nursing Summit. I am impressed with the balance of public health technology, clinical practice topics, and presenters."

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.

Improving Healthcare for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Individuals.

On April 3, 2016 CHAHEC hosted a half-day health professions seminar on "Improving Healthcare for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Individuals." The training took place at the Middletown, N.Y., campus of the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, with 65 healthcare professionals and students. The purpose of this program was to: describe health disparities in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) populations; describe ways to overcome barriers to providing better care to LGBT People; discuss making assumptions, asking the right questions about medications and a thorough health history; review resources for health care professionals; and convey at least 1 area in need of improvement in their organization to better serve LGBTQ clients. Attendees networked with their peers, found resources for assisting patients, learned about institutions with health programs for LGBT individuals, and discussed future training opportunities they might want to organize or participate in. Continuing education credits were offered to physicians, nurses and social workers. Overall 100% of the participants rated the training positively with 73% of the participants rating the overall program as "excellent." Ninety-two percent of the healthcare providers said they planned to implement at least one change in their practice or at their institution as a result of having attended this training.

When asked to provide comments on the program, some participants said:

- ◆ "This program opened my eyes to a lot of new changes that are happening and going to happen. I would like to learn & train more to our community."
- ◆ "Excellent program on severely needed content! Consider this as an annual or semi-annual program."

HPV Vaccine Immunization Project

As part of the National AHEC Organization HPV Vaccine Immunization Project contract with the University at Buffalo, John W. Epling, Medical Director of the Central Region Office (CRO), presented, "You are the Key to Cancer Prevention: Understanding the Burden of HPV Disease, Importance of HPV Vaccine Recommendation and Communication about HPV Vaccination" on August 14, October 10, and January 23 in New York City, Rochester, and Lake Placid respectively. The main objective of these presentations was to ultimately augment HPV immunization rates of 11 and 12 year-old males and females by improving clinician training (pediatricians, family physicians, obstetricians and gynecologists, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and physicians assistants) and their overall comprehension of the HPV vaccination. Overall, the New York State AHEC System trained 117 individuals including 71 physicians, 1 nurse practitioner, 1 physician assistant, 25 medical residents, 14 medical students, 2 other practicing health professionals and 3 others, exceeding the contract requirements. Continuing education credits was offered to physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. Overall, 88% of participants stated they were able to better define the importance of HPV vaccination in cancer prevention, and 86% of participants said they were able to better explain the vaccination to patients. Sixty-three percentage of participants plan on implementing at least one change in their practice or patient care as a result of this training.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

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.

A total of 13,543 students (4,818 grades K-8 students, 8,186 grades 9-12 students and 539 college students participated in health careers programs.

Health Careers Multi-Session Programs:

- ◆ Central NY AHEC (CNYAHEC), Northern (NAHEC), Catskill Hudson (CHAHEC), and Eastern Regional Office (ERO) hosted **MASH, MedQuest and HealthQuest Camps** serving nearly 300 middle/high school students with exposure to health careers and brief job shadows.
 - ◆ AHECs provided internships, mentoring and didactic sessions. Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC), Bronx-Westchester AHEC, Central NY AHEC (CNYAHEC), Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC), Northern AHEC (NAHEC) and Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC (MSI AHEC) conducted Summer Scholar/ Health Internship, mentoring and/or multi-session job shadow programs for 162 high school/college students.
 - ◆ R-AHEC's **PULSE Academy** provided 7 school districts and over 500 middle/high school students with healthcare career awareness and exploration activities.
 - ◆ MSI AHEC's **Collegiate Health Service Corps (CHSC)** seeks to increase underrepresented minorities in primary care and National Health Service Corps. CHSC offered 25 Lehman College juniors internships in underserved areas and training (CPR, first aid, health disparities and cultural competency).
 - ◆ MSI AHEC's **Mentor Connection** academic year program reached over a dozen 11th-12th graders providing them with mentors, field trips and speaker. Mentors included: Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, NY College of Podiatric Medicine, CUNY School of Public Health, Harlem United and Staten Island University Hospital residency programs, SUNY College of Optometry.
 - ◆ **AHEC/Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP)** collaborations for 64 students include BQLI AHEC/SUNY Downstate and R-AHEC/D'Youville College. BQLI AHEC provided content for weekly summer sessions while R-AHEC delivered career exploration sessions and rural health facility visits.
 - ◆ CHAHEC conducted **Scrubs Club (SC)** with 100+ students at 6 schools and SUNY New Paltz STEP. SC, a health careers exploration program, was developed by CHAHEC for high school students. Lessons can be incorporated into a curriculum or utilized as a 3-year, longitudinal, afterschool program. Scrubs Clubs was the recipient of the **National Center Award for Excellence** in the category of Health Careers Recruitment at the 2016 National AHEC Organization Conferences in Washington, DC.
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Health Careers Awareness Programs

- ◆ Nearly 4,300 K-8, 9-12 and college students attended single session awareness programs via career fairs, presentations and trips/tours.
- ◆ 2,100 students completed guided web exploration of myhealthcareer.org (MHC) which links middle/high/college students online to CNYAHEC and NAHEC. MHC offers career information/exploration; skill assessment; budgeting tools; scholarships/tuition assistance and portfolio development. MHC links to HWapps, an online health workforce platform connecting students, career seekers and professionals with employers, educators, tools, programs and opportunities that support users as they plan for their future in health care.
- ◆ CNYAHEC and NAHEC established a collaboration with NY's HOSA to recruit HOSA chapters and expand into their current regions. Both CNYAHEC and NAHEC participated in the HOSA Fall and Spring Leadership Conferences, which served over 500 students.
- ◆ MSI AHEC partnered with Region 9 Student National Medical Association (SNMA) to create a high school health career exposure track at SNMA. MSI AHEC, SNMA and Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students leadership developed curricula and identified presenters: financing college education, succeeding in college, exploring health careers and a day in the life of an ER physician. Students also toured Albany Medical College. A total of 20 students participated.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Pipeline Program Evaluation

The New York State AHEC System pipeline programs provide students with exposure to health careers and health professionals, reflecting the needs of the specific communities where the programs take place. Our multi-year evaluations of our pipeline programs, of which a majority were multi-session career exploration programs (e.g. MASH, MedTech and MedQuest camps) or internship programs, have measured students' change in knowledge and awareness of health careers through a pre/post instrument. The evaluation has also assessed students' interest in pursuing health professions and the overall impact of AHEC programming. Overall, each year the students gave the programs positive evaluations. On average 93% of participants reported that the program met their needs and 94% reported that they found the activities interesting. Ninety-five percent of the students felt that the activities/presentations were helpful to someone thinking about working in the health care field and 95% of the students said that they learned a lot about health care professions. Furthermore, results indicate that students' knowledge and awareness of health careers increased following program participation. Based on our evaluation results, we have found that students increased their overall knowledge of health careers following entrance into AHEC programming, and that students' view of health careers increased as a viable option as a result of their participation in AHEC pipeline programs.

Pipeline Program Spotlight-Scrubs Club

Scrubs Club (SC) is a health career exploration program conceptualized by Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (CHAHEC), and was designed to introduce high school students to health care careers through engaging, hands-on activities, meaningful field trips and real-life experiences. SC lesson plans meet New York State Career Development and Occupational Studies Core Curriculum and Learning Standards. The lesson plan can be incorporated into daily classroom curriculum, used as an after school program or conducted as a continuum program spanning freshman through senior year in high school. To date, SC programs have been implemented in about 20 schools, which include schools within 5 of CHAHEC's 11 counties as well as other AHECs in 7 different states (outside New York State). To date, 3,459 pipeline program students have participated in SC. CHAHEC conducted a Dover SC program content evaluation and impact survey prior to the students' graduation. These survey results exceeded all projected outcome expectations. Ninety percent of participants plan to continue their education after high school graduation and 85% of the students are planning a career in health care. Eighty-five percent of the students said that SC influenced their decisions to pursue a health care career. When asked how SC has impacted their future plans, students said:



- ◆ "When I joined Scrubs Club, I realized that everywhere you go, you need healthcare. It's a growing field and health professionals are in demand. It's just a great career choice."
- ◆ "Scrubs Club focuses on the future and preparing for the real-world/careers. It motivated and prepared me to make important decisions about careers I didn't even know existed."
- ◆ "Scrubs Club has helped me eliminate certain careers from prospective career choices and narrow down what I really want to do."

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.

"Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health."

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

AHEC State and National Leadership

Governor appointments to **NYS Rural Health Council** [Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC)] and **Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC)**; **Mid-Hudson Rural Integrated Delivery System Provider Network Board** and **Eastern Dutchess Rural Health Network Advisory Board (CHAHEC)**; **Buffalo Public School Health and Wellness Group (ENAHEC)**; **Chair, NYC DOE Healthcare Industry Commission** [Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC)]; **Oswego County RHN (CNYAHEC)**; **State Workforce Advisory Group (Statewide Office, HMAHEC, NAHEC)**, **NYS Health Innovation Plan (NYS AHEC System Director)**; **DSRIP/SHIP Workforce Workgroup**; **Board of Trustees to Erie Community College (NYS AHEC Assistant Director)**.

Presentations/Posters

Shannon Carlin-Menter, PhD, NYS AHEC System Director of Evaluation:

- ◆ STFM (Society of Teachers of Family Medicine) Annual Spring Conference, Minneapolis, MN: Completed Projects and Research Session: *"Family Medicine Students in Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT): A CERA Study"* April 2016.
 - ◆ NIH (National Institutes of Health) SciEd 2016, Rockville, MD: Poster Presentation: *"Western New York Genetics in Research Partnership"* May 2016.
 - ◆ National AHEC Organization Conference, Washington, DC. "AHEC on the Hill: A Capital Idea." June 2016 presentations by:
 - ◆ Ashleigh McGowan, Center Director, CNYAHEC and Richard Merchant, MA, CEO, NAHEC and CNYAHEC: *Digital Trends in the Workforce Pathways: A Leading Role for AHECs.*
 - ◆ Ashleigh McGowan, Center Director, CNYAHEC and Richard Merchant, MA, CEO, NAHEC and CNYAHEC: *DSRIP Essentials and Opportunities for AHECs.*
 - ◆ Mary Mitchell, MPH, Executive Director, MSI AHEC: Edwards-Harris, A. and Thomas, W.. *Educating a Diverse Health Care Workforce: A Panel Discussion with Current Health Professions Students.*
 - ◆ Mary Mitchell, MPH, Executive Director, MSI AHEC: Shelton, A. and White, P. *Plugging the Leaky Pipeline: Post-Secondary Internships to Promote Health Careers and Community Partnerships.*
 - ◆ Shannon Carlin-Menter, PhD, NYS AHEC System Director of Evaluation and Danise C. Wilson, MPH, NYS AHEC System Assistant Director. *Bioinformatics and the healthcare workforce: Expanding the scope of AHEC*
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Academic & Research Highlights

- Carlin-Menter S.M., WinklerPrins, V.J., & Malouin, R.A., Danzo, A., & Blondell R.D. (2016). Training Medical Students on Substance Abuse Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT): A National Survey of Family Medicine Clerkship Directors. *Journal of Family Medicine*.
- Mader, E. M., Rodriguez, J. E., Campbell, K. M., Smilnak, T., Bazemore, A. W., Petterson, S., & Morley, C. P. (2016). Status of underrepresented minority and female faculty at medical schools located within Historically Black Colleges and in Puerto Rico. *Medical Education Online*, 21, 10.3402/meo.v21.29535. <http://doi.org/10.3402/meo.v21.29535>.
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- Weitzel, K. W., Alexander, M., Bernhardt, B. A., Calman, N., Carey, D. J., Cavallari, L. H., ... & Levy, K. (2016). The IGNITE network: a model for genomic medicine implementation and research. *BMC medical genomics*, 9(1), 1.

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.

HIGHLIGHT: The NYS AHEC System Statewide Office Evaluation Team is proud to announce the completion of their *Guide to Health Profession Education Programs in New York State*. The guide provides detailed information on over 220 schools and non-degree granting institutions throughout the state, along with their individual availability regarding health-related educational programs. Additional, the guide details academic degree programs available by institution and by region, as well as other educational programs that offer specific health profession training. The guide further offers links to relevant professional associations and other useful resources. For anyone interested in pursuing a health-related career or advancing their current position, this guide is the ultimate resource for educational programs offered in New York State.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Objective #6:

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

The \$2,077,000 in 2015-16 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.

Leveraging NYS Investment

- ◆ "Western NY Genetics in Research Partnership" Year 3 activities were completed by students under \$1.1 million National Science Foundation grant involving the Statewide Office (Department of Family Medicine, University at Buffalo (UB) School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences), Erie Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC) and Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC). The program was designed to promote STEM careers to local high school students for jobs at the growing University at Buffalo NYS Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences (CBLS) and improve genomic competencies of local science teachers. The AHECs successfully reached a total of 1,463 students and helped the teachers to recruit 395 students to participate in the research study: 200 of the students were randomized into a treatment group and 195 students were randomized into the control group. In May and June, a Capstone Symposium was held (in Buffalo and Rochester), providing participating students and teachers the opportunity to present their projects and network with researchers and employers. A brief video was produced for the project which showcased both teachers and students in the program <https://vimeo.com/164441141>.
- ◆ R-AHEC continued **Western NY Rural Broadband Healthcare Network**, previously funded with \$5.9 million from the Federal Communications Commission to build out broadband capabilities of rural hospitals and connect them with health systems in Buffalo and Rochester providing capacity for EMRs, telemedicine, grand rounds and CME. The WNY RBHN now has 79 live facilities on the network, thirty eight of which are under the HCF. Twelve of these thirty eight are already billing under the HCF; the rest are in the installation/transition phase or still billing under the Pilot while their contracted HCF services are waiting to go live. Ten brand new facilities are expected to join the network from the recently ended RFP 4, with a total of 24 new billable circuits between them.
- ◆ In January 2016, R-AHEC received a grant award from the **Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo** in the amount of \$20,000 to fund the following projects: continuation of the PULSE (providing Unique Learning/Shadowing Experiences) Academy and Health Professional Student Housing Scholarships for the William F. Thiel Hospitality House.
- ◆ R-AHEC has been awarded a sub-contract of \$46,543.75 through Action for a Better Community (ABC) to instruct a series of educational classroom presentations to TANF-eligible individuals that focus on the existing career ladders/pathways available to healthcare industry. These presentations take place once per month, over a five year period, at various locations throughout Monroe County in collaboration with community organizations and local healthcare providers.
- ◆ CNYAHEC renewed a \$38,825 contract with the **Bassett Healthcare Network** to assist in their recruitment efforts for Medical Technologists. Program activities are currently underway with outreach and recruitment.



Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Objective #6:

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

The NYS AHEC System Statewide Office began a series of strategic planning meetings to focus on plans for the upcoming proposal for the new HRSA ROA. The three priorities areas are:

1. *Distribution of Health Professionals*
2. *Diversity of Health Professionals*
3. *Practice Transformation*

All center and regional office directors and programs leaders attended.

- ◆ The MSI AHEC **Champions of Diversity** event raised over \$10,000 which will support general operations. A development consultant will be considered by the MSI AHEC Board of Directors at its next meeting.
- ◆ BQLI AHEC submitted a proposal on September 25 to the **Justice Center Health Ambassador** project to continue outreach to consumers about the New York State of Health Insurance options. A verbal commitment has been received that the project will be funded for \$10,000.

Spotlight on Technology Innovation: HW Apps

This past year CNYAHEC and NAHEC have provided guidance and advice to Health WorkForce New York, a nonprofit health workforce development partner, to build a digital platform called



HWapps that works to revolutionize deployment, delivery and evaluation of healthcare workforce services, be self-sustaining, avail itself to easy replication and growth, and result in a multiplicity of favorable essential healthcare-related outcomes. With guidance from CNYAHEC, NAHEC and Upstate Medical University, HWapps was conceived by Health WorkForce New York and recognizes the

desperate need for a comprehensive solution to address the worsening healthcare workforce shortage crisis. Just within the last year, HWapps has reached a total of 12,048 individuals, of which 1,860 were middle and high school students, 107 were post-secondary and 6,481 were professionals. HWapps will continue to build its network of services within the CNYAHEC and NAHEC service regions, and will be offered to other NYS AHEC center service regions.

NYS AHEC System Social Media Goals & Activities

The Statewide NYS AHEC Office aims to improve future participant awareness by activating social media campaigns. Additionally, NYS AHEC aims to retain past participants and current affiliations via promotion of active engagement with current participants and programs. In order to reach the overarching NYS AHEC goals of increased awareness and retention, this year the statewide office has been promoting a positive social media presence via platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. By implementing these social media platforms, NYS AHEC aims to grow our overall following, increase active engagement, and encourage brand evangelism via the construction of relationships with similar groups, current affiliations, and the healthcare and education industries. NYS AHEC's social media presence serves as a networking opportunity to connect students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health via increased health awareness and participation. Platforms are regularly maintained, monitored, and updated via minimal update policy of a week, with a preference for 2-3 times a week.

Posts have included: Current trends/reports (employment trends, salary growth, attendance/graduation information); Links to healthcare-related news (National, state, or local articles/videos/conferences); Upcoming deadlines/events/activities (including but not limited to NYS AHEC programs, sponsored events, and local enrollments); Upcoming healthcare-related holidays/celebrations (e.g. National Nurses Week, Thank a Doctor Day, etc.); Responses to followers' posts/questions/concerns).



