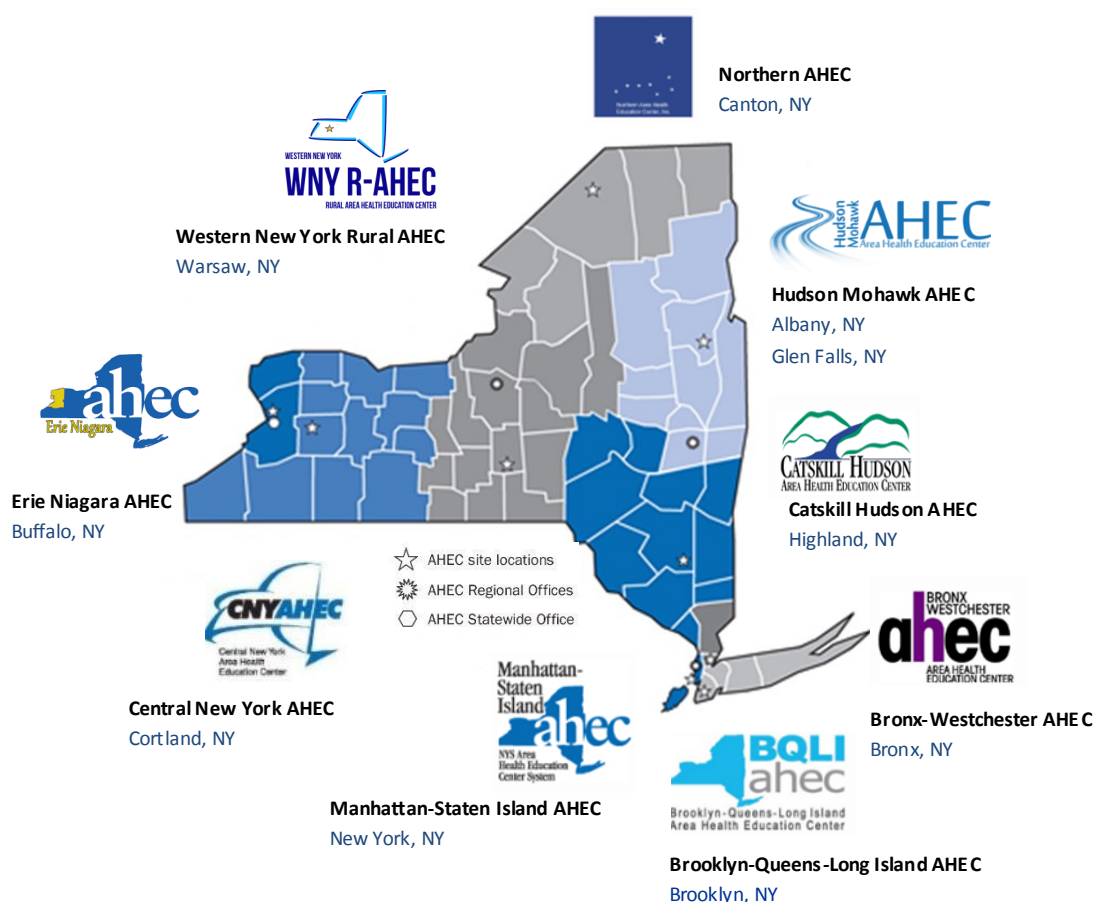




Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

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

Statewide Office at the University at Buffalo

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.

2018-19 Year in Review

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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 Goals

1. Diversity

- ◆ Prepare a diverse, culturally competent primary care workforce representative of the communities served.

2. Distribution

- ◆ Improve the workforce distribution, particularly within medically underserved communities.

3. Practice Transformation

- ◆ Develop and maintain a healthcare workforce that is prepared to deliver high quality care in a transforming healthcare delivery system.

Objectives

- 1) Support the recruitment of underrepresented minorities/underserved populations into health professions via youth exposure activities, with an emphasis on high school students grades 9-12.
- 2) Support the community-based experiential training of health profession students in medically underserved communities through field placements and clinical rotations.
- 3) Enhance the local healthcare workforce through continuing education programs for currently practicing medical and healthcare professionals focusing on core topic areas.
- 4) Support the development and implementation of a two-year, interdisciplinary program curricula in core topic areas with a defined set of clinical, didactic, and community-based training activities in medically underserved communities for a cohort of interprofessional students.
- 5) Connect health professional graduates to vacancies in medically underserved communities and raise awareness of debt reduction incentive programs for medically underserved community practice.
- 6) Develop and strengthen partnerships for implementing, advancing, and sustaining the work of the NYS AHEC Program.



Purpose/Need

According to 2019 HRSA data, there are approximately 4.13 million New Yorkers identified as residing in locales designated as "underserved" throughout New York's nearly 150 Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).^[1] It would require nearly 1,000 additional healthcare practitioners in these areas to remove the shortage status. Moreover, the NYS Department of Labor projects that the healthcare sector will account for one of the largest areas of growth, 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] Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics: Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019 (June 2019). [Chart]. Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/topics/shortageAreas.aspx>

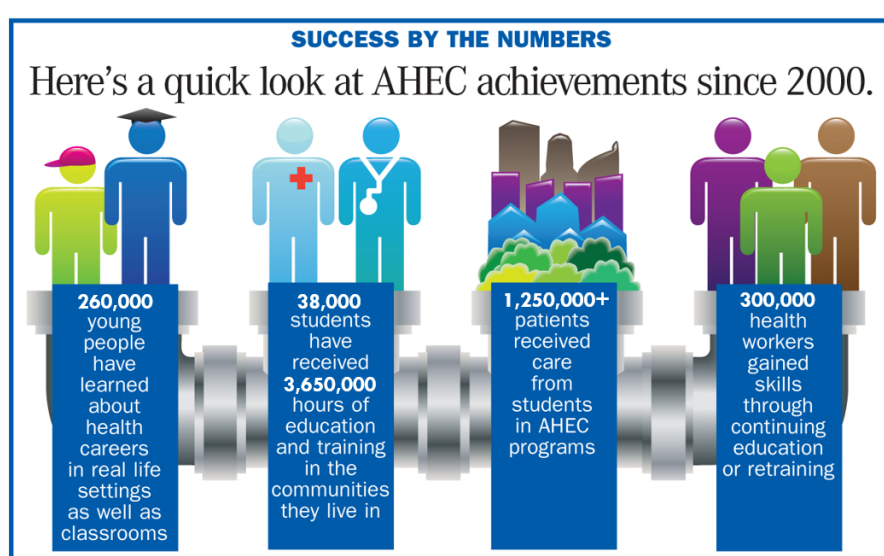
[2] New York State Department of Labor: Long Term Industry Employment Projections, 2012-2022. [Chart]. Retrieved from <https://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/lsp/lsproj.htm>

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Overview: Outreach 2018-2019

- ◆ Roughly 1,000 elementary and middle school students, nearly 7,000 high school students and approximately 2,400 college students participated in health careers programs.
- ◆ Over 900 rotations were completed by medical, nursing and health professions students with over 250 preceptors/faculty at AHEC-sponsored community-based sites (e.g., community health centers, hospitals, clinics and private practices) with an emphasis on underserved communities.
- ◆ Approximately 70,000 health professionals received continuing education training via 150 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.

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:

- 60** academic institutions;
- 137** elementary/secondary schools;
- 310** hospitals/health care systems/clinics/networks; and
- 140** community and professional organizations/government agencies/businesses.

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 for these initiatives. Total funds expected for DSRIP related work and consultant services, including but not limited to programmatic activities, data tracking, and survey development, across multiple centers exceeds \$600,000 for the next two fiscal 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.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

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Continuous Quality Improvement Efforts

In order to assure that all nine AHEC Centers share the same ultimate mission and thus, contribute to the Statewide Evaluation Plan, an Executive Committee Team membership Meeting was convened on March 5, 2019. The half-day meeting involved all nine AHEC Center Executive Directors and was facilitated by two seasoned AHEC committee members. During the meeting, the Executive Committee members were able to clarify their top four priorities that would drive the overall improvement of the Statewide System and programs.

The top four priorities established during this meeting were as follows:

1. Improve the relationship the centers have with the Statewide Office.
2. Improve Collaboration between centers, by: Sharing ideas and solutions between centers; Establishing mentors; Creating a repository of shared tools/templates/programs; and Sharing new program ideas.
3. Improve Skill Sharing across the AHEC Centers by understanding each other's strengths and weaknesses and sharing best practices.
4. Improve Sustainability of Programs by: Procuring funds (via grants) for capacity building; Improving Individual Center Evaluations; Developing and sharing replicable models; and Developing a Sustainability Plan.

Evaluation

NEW! NYS AHEC System Statewide Evaluation Plan

On August 31, 2018, the NYSAHEC introduced a new Statewide Evaluation Plan which will take a collaborative and participatory approach to statewide evaluation that involves the Data and Evaluation Committee and the Statewide NYS AHEC Evaluation Team. We will assure that everyone within the system, including top-level leadership, understand key evaluation concepts such as, the definition of outcomes-based assessment, evaluation and its necessity, the connection of evaluation to planning, how to use the results both as a practitioner (e.g., administrator or instructor) and as a leader, and how to connect evaluation results to external benchmarks or indicators of success.

The purpose of the Statewide Evaluation Plan is to:

- Provide information on program effectiveness and meet NYS DOH's and HRSA's program performance measurement requirements.
- Determine if program strategies and activities are being implemented as planned and measure the progress made towards meeting the outcome objectives, and HRSA's program progress and continuous quality improvement plan requirements.
- Focus on the changes in knowledge, behavior, and/or practices as a result of the activities, including intermediate and long-term results that will meet HRSA's Annual Evaluation Report and continuous quality improvement plan requirements.
- Focus on long-term sustained changes as a result of the program activities, both intended/unintended, that will meet HRSA's Annual Evaluation Report and continuous quality improvement plan requirements.

ADVISORY Board Evaluation Plan Feedback

As our new Statewide Evaluation Plan now includes feedback from each of the nine Center's Board of Directors, we wanted the NYSAHEC Advisory Board members to support the practice and use of the program evaluations by pilot testing our evaluation process before utilizing the tools with the separate boards. Prior to the March 6, 2019 meeting, we asked a few of our Advisory Board members to review the reports for one of the nine centers. The Advisory Board's participation in this process provided us with valuable feedback prior to implementing similar activities with each of the nine center's board on a semi-annual basis.

Overall, the Advisory Board members found the reports understandable and they were able to better understand the connections between the Statewide Objectives and how they corresponded to the Center's activities. The reports will be distributed to each of the nine centers in September 2019 and the Executive Directors will then collect feedback from their committee members to be distributed back to the Statewide Office. Based on the Advisory Board feedback the following changes will be implemented: Each of the nine Centers will develop logic models for each of their individual programs/activities. Logic Models will help the centers and the boards understand the target population, the goals/objectives, and the activities to meet those goals, as well as a better understanding of what information they should collect in order to measure the efficacy of their programs. The Advisory Board also agreed that the Centers should take a more direct role in the longitudinal follow-up of their past participants.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

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NYS AHEC Scholars Program

Beginning Fall 2018, five of the nine AHEC Centers recruited and enrolled an interdisciplinary team of health professions students for the brand-new AHEC Scholars program, a statewide, two-year longitudinal academic program designed to provide current health professional students with community-learning opportunities in underserved and medically disadvantaged areas. Utilizing a hybrid model of in-person experiences and online modules, participants receive in-depth training on topics designed to augment patient care, such as cultural competency, social determinants of health, practice transformation, behavioral health integration, and interprofessional care coordination. In addition, all experiential or clinical training was conducted in rural and/or medically disadvantaged settings throughout New York State.

The overarching goal of the AHEC Scholars Program is for students to gain a valuable understanding about the numerous social and cultural factors that influence an individual's overall health and their ability to access quality care. By exposing students to social, financial, and cultural issues of care, this program aims to support the development of future healthcare professionals who are able to provide high-quality, patient-centric care to all members of their community.

Program Implementation:

There are a total of 17 AHEC Scholar students currently enrolled across the NYS AHEC System, representing the following five AHEC Centers: Bronx-Westchester, Erie-Niagara, Hudson Mohawk, Manhattan-Staten Island, and Western NY Rural.

During their first year, students have been diligently working through the didactic portion of the program via online modules developed by the NYS AHEC Statewide Office. To date, over 475 hours of didactic training have been completed by Cohort 1. Students have also been participating in community-based experiential training in medically underserved areas, and have been working with current healthcare professionals to address particular social determinants of health impacting select patients. To date, roughly 500 hours of experiential training have been completed by Cohort 1.

When asked to provide feedback on the program so far, students responded:

- ◆ "This program has helped me become more knowledgeable about the healthcare system and the way it operates... I am able to ask thorough questions about a person's health....to better support patient seeking healthcare beyond just their physical needs."
- ◆ "AHEC is giving me the opportunity to work with underserved communities to help me see what I like about jobs like that and to better understand the populations that I would be working with if I decide to work in a similar setting."
- ◆ "Working at a hospital...has helped me better understand our healthcare system...it isn't just about the rich receiving care and the poor getting rejected, but rather the quality of treatment that both classes receive while they are receiving care. "



Objective #4:

Support the development and implementation of a two-year, interdisciplinary program curricula in core topic area with a defined set of clinical, didactic, and community-based training activities in medically underserved communities for a cohort of interprofessional students.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Objective #1:

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.

Health Careers Multi-Session Programs:

- ◆ Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC), Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC), Central NY AHEC (CNYAHEC), Northern (NAHEC), Erie-Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC), and WNY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC) hosted **MASH, MedQuest, HealthQuest and/or Summer Camps** serving over 680 elementary, middle, and high school students with hands-on exposure to local and viable health careers.
- ◆ AHECs provided **internships and job shadows opportunities** for roughly 35 high school and college students interested in healthcare careers.
- ◆ BQLI AHEC, Bronx-Westchester AHEC (BW AHEC), Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC (MSI AHEC), and R-AHEC conducted **Summer Health Internship** programs for 70 high school/college students.
- ◆ ENAHEC and R-AHEC provided over 1,000 high school students with exposure to **careers in bioinformatics and genomics** through hands-on gene annotation research as part of the Science Education and Partnership Award (SEPA) project.
- ◆ **College and Health facility tours.** BQLI AHEC, ENAHEC, CNY AHEC, and WNY R-AHEC provided roughly 120 high school students with **facility tours of local colleges, hospitals, nursing homes, and provider offices.** By exposing students to local facilities, NYS AHEC encourages regional development and retention.
- ◆ AHEC centers also provided high school and college students with **academic mentoring and tutoring opportunities** to support their pursuit of healthcare careers.
- ◆ Catskill Hudson (CHAHEC) supported its **Scrubs Club (SC)** program at SUNY New Paltz for 30 high school students. Scrubs Club has 28 lessons that can be incorporated into a curriculum or utilized as a 3-year, longitudinal, afterschool program, and meets New York State Career Development & Occupational Studies Core Curriculum and Learning Standards.

Health Careers Awareness Programs

- ◆ Over **5,600** K-8, 9-12 and college students attended **single session awareness programs** via career fairs, presentations and trips/tours. These single session events increase awareness and exposure to health-related careers through lectures, hands-on activities, and demonstrations.
- ◆ Northern AHEC, in collaboration with SUNY Upstate Medical College, continued their joint **collaboration with NY's Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)** to recruit HOSA chapters and expand into their current region.
- ◆ 1,100 students completed guided a **web exploration of HWCareers.org** (MHC) which links middle/high/college students online to CNYAHEC and NAHEC. HWCareers offers career information/exploration, skill assessment, budgeting tools, scholarships/tuition assistance and portfolio development. HWCareers 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.



HWcareers

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Pipeline Program Spotlight– Mentorship through Case Discussion

Dr. Carrie Roseamelia, Assistant Dean for Rural Medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University and Central AHEC Regional Director, developed and implemented a Mentorship through Case Competition activity as part of her *Introduction to Rural Health* class. Dr. Roseamelia identified and recruited participants from seven area high schools. High school teams were mentored and trained by medical students on a clinical case that covered the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes, as well as barriers to treatment, social determinants of health and community population health with respect to Type 2 diabetes. A total of 38 medical students (16 MS1s, 18 MS2s, 1 MS3, and 3 MS4s) served as educators and mentors for the 32 high school students. High school teams demonstrated their knowledge over the course of two competitive rounds in front of a judging panel consisting of local physicians and community members. The winning team was selected based on their overall demonstration of clinical understanding and ability to present to information clearly.



"All three of my sons attended the MASH Camp at Arnot Ogden Medical Center. They learned a lot, had fun and came away wanting to know more about the many opportunities in healthcare. It is a wonderful program. We are thankful it is available right in our community."
CNYAHEC mother

"I love how they teach us about different careers and how they work."
BQLI AHEC participant

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

"Thank you for providing these opportunities and exposing me to careers and paths I never knew."
MSI AHEC participant

"I was exposed to the healthcare field in such depth and detail that it allowed me to understand what working in a hospital is actually like, as well as all the different responsibilities that go into making sure a patient has a successful experience."
BW AHEC participant

Pipeline Program Spotlight– Scholarships

The New York State AHEC System is proud to offer scholarships to high school and/or college students who demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in the health field.



- ♦ **L. Thomas Wolff, M.D. Scholarship** (CNYAHEC): This year, Dante H. , an Onondaga county resident and prior MASH Camp participant, was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Dante is currently a nursing student at the University at Buffalo, and plans to pursue employment in Syracuse after his graduation.
- ♦ **Bruce C. Potter Memorial Scholarship** (NAHEC): This year, Anna R. was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Anna is currently in the Physician Assistant program at Clarkson University.
- ♦ **Health Career Scholarship** (HMAHEC): A total of 10 high school students, were awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$500. All recipients have expressed an interest in enrolling at a local college, with plans to pursue careers in Dental Hygiene, Nursing, and Radiology.



Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Objective #2:

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.

Health Professions Students

- ◆ The NYS AHEC System, in collaboration with academic institutions such as Lake Erie College of Medicine, University at Buffalo, SUNY Upstate Medical University, and Albany College of Medicine provided students with the following community-based experiential and/or clinical learning:
 - * **483 Medical Rotations**
 - * **106 Nursing Rotations**
 - * **69 Physician Assistant Rotations**
 - * **13 Pharmacy Rotations**
 - * **140+ Other Health Professional Rotations** (including Dental Health, Social Work, Nutrition, Public Health, and Physician Assistant)
- ◆ **Rotation sites included community health centers, ambulatory care sites, hospitals and non-profit community organization** 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.
- ◆ During the summer of 2018, NY Metropolitan Region AHECs provided roughly 10 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) manages a Hospitality House, conveniently located next to Wyoming County Community Hospital, to support current health professions students and professionals in the area. Over 20 medical/health professions students and visiting providers received **housing support**.
- ◆ Northern AHEC and Catskill-Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) continued their **Rural Immersion Programs**. Over 20 medical students spent a week or more shadowing providers at hospitals and community agencies while exploring rural community life and identifying public health issues, including health care access. Local partners included Wells College, Touro University, SUNY Upstate, River Hospital, Carthage Area Hospital, Lewis County General Hospital, and Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Central Region Office (CRO)/Upstate Medical University continued their **Rural Medical Scholars Program** designed to increase the number of family physicians entering the rural workforce. Students completed all medical rotations in a rural and/or underserved setting.
- ◆ Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC), through the Health Workforce Re-entry Initiative, provided **19 first-time LPN students with the training and education needed to earn their license**.

Ongoing Summer Programs

- ◆ Hosted by MSI AHEC and BW AHEC, the **Health Career Internship Program (HCIP)** has over 25 enrollees, and will run throughout July 2019.
- ◆ A collaborative effort of the three NY Metro AHECs, the **Community Health Experience (CHE)** program has roughly 12 enrollees, and will run throughout July 2019. Similarly, the **Summer Health Internship Program** has approximately 50 enrollees, and will run July-August.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Health Professions Student Program Spotlight– Health Careers Internship Program

In collaboration with local colleges, healthcare organizations, and community-based facilities, each summer both Bronx-Westchester AHEC and Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC coordinate their Health Careers Internship Program (HCIP). Designed for upper college students who have a strong interest in a health care profession, the program provides participants with a six-week long placement at a community health based organization. Geared towards diverse community and public health experiences, students are exposed to underrepresented populations and receive hands-on training designed to increase awareness of a wide array of issues affecting the overall health within that community. In addition to placement in community organizations, students also network with current medical and health professional students, as well as participate in a didactic lecture series once a week, with topics covering different community/public health centered issues. When asked to provide comments on the program, part participants have responded:

- ♦ *"This program was a great opportunity! I have a better understanding of the factors affecting underserved communities."*
- ♦ *"This program has given me the most hands-on, learning experience I have ever received."*



Pictured Above:

Students within the Health Careers Internship Program participated in a Volunteer Day at Broadway Presbyterian Church, where they helped to prepare and serve the community a freshly cooked meal.

Connecting Health Professional Graduates to MUCs

The NYS AHEC System is dedicated to reducing the shortage of healthcare professionals across the state, as well as increasing awareness of available debt reduction programs for eligible providers. Each of the nine centers have designated at least one staff member to serve as a National Health Service Corps ambassador to notify health professional students regarding debt reduction programs and incentives for MUC employment. The NYS AHEC System continues to develop strategic partner agreements with employers in MUC settings to identify current and upcoming job vacancies and collaborate with local academic institutions to notify health professional graduates of available jobs. Current activities in progress include:

- ♦ Integration of a Job Board on center webpages to highlight available vacancies in medically underserved areas
- ♦ Social media posts and bi-monthly newsletters to followers regarding available vacancies and eligible loan forgiveness and scholarship programs
- ♦ Classroom presentations on eligible loan forgiveness and debt reduction programs
- ♦ Exposure and shadow programs with hiring healthcare facilities



Objective #2:

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.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

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.

Continuing Education Programs

- ◆ First responders received CE via AHEC programming. Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) supported two Columbia-Greene **EMS Education Days** serving over 100 emergency services and emergency room professionals, and co-hosted the **Emergency Responder Leadership Academy** for 90 participants. Additionally, Hudson Mohawk (HMAHEC) and Northern AHEC (NAHEC) collaborated with local EMS groups and academic institutions to co-host three EMS related events, drawing a total of 165 EMS specialists and instructors.
- ◆ Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC) continued to add **InService Solutions** (ISS) clients. Over 65,000 individuals completed roughly 30,000 hours of training over 15 modules. Northern AHEC (NAHEC) also utilized ISS to offer local partners ongoing CE programs. Over 1,000 participants completed their **training on corporate compliance, patient rights and safety, and workplace violence** to stay current on required regulations and certifications.
- ◆ Several NYS AHEC System Centers, including CNYAHEC, ENAHEC, and R-AHEC, provided **Cultural Competency and Social Determinants Awareness Training** to roughly 6,000 current and aspiring healthcare professionals. ENAHEC also provided **training on medication adherence, health literacy, and improving care transitions** to roughly 750 health professionals and community members.
- ◆ Health Workforce Retraining Initiative (HWRI) activities **support career ladders and workforce re-entry**. Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC) offered Basic Computer Skills training to over 140 staff at local and regional healthcare partners. Hudson-Mohawk hosted a series of behavioral health webinars focused on recruitment and retention for a total of 150 attendees.
- ◆ Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC) partnered with the National AHEC Organization (NAO) to host an **HPV Prevention and Vaccine Awareness event** for 60 current healthcare practitioners.
- ◆ Both ENAHEC and R-AHEC provided training on how to **provide quality care to members of the LGBTQ population** to nearly 200 health professionals and community members.



Selected Continuing Education/Faculty Development Programs

Continuing Education Topic	No. of Programs	No. of Participants
Cultural Competency/Health Disparities	35	6,818
Patient Rights/Safety	15	3,920
Healthcare Leadership/Professional Development	52	616
Emergency Response Training	6	217
Care Coordination/Care Transitions	5	98

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

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Nursing Summit

Catskill Hudson (CHAHEC) conducted their flagship Nursing Summit on April 12, 2019 at the Henry A. Wallace Center of the FDR Library in Hyde Park, NY. This year's program was entitled "The Response of the Nursing Profession to the Challenge of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)" and focused on the results of a 1990s

landmark study that found a significant relationship between the number of ACEs (traumatic events occurring before the age of 18) a person experienced and a variety of negative outcomes in adulthood. The program included a viewing of "Resilience-The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope," a documentary that details the impact that toxic stress can trigger hormones can have on the brains and bodies of children, ultimately putting them at a greater risk for disease, homelessness, prison time, and early death. The day continued with presentations by Traci Furbert Gardner, MD, Samantha Koury, LMSW, and Nicole M. Brown, MD, MPH, MHS on topics addressing an introduction to Adverse Childhood Experiences, trauma-informed care, and pediatric screening. The event concluded with a Question and Answer discussion panel. The Nursing Summit was very well-received, and prompted efforts to duplicate the program for all health professions and teachers. Programmatic evaluations were quite positive, with many participants expressing the alignment of information taught with applicable practical skills and knowledge. Ninety-seven percent of attendees reported that the program motivated them to "become change leaders regarding this important health issue." When asked to provide comments on the program, they responded:

- ♦ "I appreciate the breadth and depth of knowledge and expertise presented today."
- ♦ "Very informative content presented today. Interactive 'take-away' inspiration and ideas to present at my work environment."
- ♦ "Today's program was eye-opening!"



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.



Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

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Supplemental Funding Activities: Opioid Expansion Project

In September 2018, the NYS AHEC System received supplemental funding from the federal Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) totaling over \$220,000 to support HRSA's priority focus on the opioid epidemic by expanding training related to opioid diagnosis, use, treatment and prevention for current health professionals, future practitioners (i.e. students), and the general population.

Project Scope of Work:

Four AHEC centers (Erie Niagara AHEC, Western New York Rural AHEC, Hudson Mohawk AHEC, and Manhattan Staten Island AHEC) participated in the project, which focused on the following objectives:



♦ Objective 1: Health Professional Continuing Education

In collaboration with University at Buffalo's Research Institute on Addiction, the NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and statewide strategic partners, recruit providers and coordinate free buprenorphine waiver training for physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants practicing in New York.

♦ Objective 2: High School and College Student Awareness

In collaboration with local educational partners, coordinate outreach events addressing opioid substance abuse, prevention, and treatment for current college and high school students.

♦ Objective 3: Community Engagement and Outreach

In collaboration with local community partners, coordinate community engagement and outreach efforts addressing opioid substance abuse, prevention, and available treatments. These events will include a range of addiction specialists, counselors, and community health workers.

Project Outcomes to Date

♦ Objective 1: Health Professional Continuing Education

Centers have coordinated 4 MAT Trainings, training 63 medical professionals to receive their Buprenorphine Waiver. Centers have identified barriers to training enrollment and completion, have identified potential solutions to the training gap, and have recruited providers to attend more than 10 additional MAT Trainings, reaching over 1,600 providers.

♦ Objective 2: High School and College Student Awareness

46 of the required 40 High School and College Tabling Events have been held, reaching over 1,200 students at over 30 different institutions.

♦ Objective 3: Community Engagement and Outreach

Centers have hosted 12 of the required 12 community events, with 3 additional events scheduled. These have included Free Narcan Trainings, Peer Advocate Presentations, a Research and Community Collaborative Symposium, Care Coordination Summit, Resources Fairs, and more.

	MAT Training	MAT Recruitment	Community Event	Tabling Event
TOTAL	4 Trainings: 63 Providers	10 Trainings: 1,600 Providers	13 Events: 442 Participants	46 Events: 1,200 Students

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

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Leveraging NYS Investment

- ◆ **“Western NY Genetics in Research Partnership”** Year 5 activities were completed by students under the \$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 promotes 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 improves genomic competencies of local science teachers. In May, a Capstone Symposium was held in Buffalo, providing participating students and teachers the opportunity to present their projects and network with researchers and employers. A brief video that showcases the project can be found at <https://vimeo.com/164441141>.
- ◆ R-AHEC continued operation of the **Western New York Rural Broadband Healthcare Network (WNY RBHN)**. As the network administrator and consortium lead, R-AHEC assists eligible non-profit healthcare organizations throughout Western and Central New York to access funds for subsidized broadband services and equipment through the Federal Communication Commission’s Healthcare Connect Fund. The network consists of a consortium of post-secondary academic facilities providing medical education, rural and urban hospitals, community health centers, Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers and skilled nursing facilities. Through the network, members are able to expand use of telemedicine, clinical mentoring, collaboration, and training over a secure, high speed IP Network with scalable bandwidth to support telemedicine and distance-learning applications. There are roughly 150 healthcare and healthcare administrative facilities on the network. The program expands broadband accessibility in medically underserved and rural areas.
- ◆ ENAHEC received \$12,000 in additional funding from Millennium Collaborative Care to support pipeline programing, with the aim of extending healthcare exposure into local middle schools.
- ◆ HM AHEC was awarded funds through the NYS DOH Health Workforce Retraining Initiative (HWRI) program to host four training events for Care Coordination staff in 2019 and 2020, with the aim of hosting one program per year in the Capital Region and North County respectively.
- ◆ R-AHEC received a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the John R. Oishei Foundation to support renovations and upgrades to the William F. Thiel Hospitality House. An additional grant in the amount of \$30,000 from the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo Thiel Trust Fund supported further renovations.
- ◆ ENAHEC and R-AHEC are subcontractors on the Doctors Across New York Ambulatory Practice Program to help facilitate medical student and resident placements in underserved areas through the New York State Department of Health.

Objective #6:

Develop and strengthen partnerships for implementing, advancing, and sustaining the work of the NYS AHEC Program.

The \$1,662,000 in 2018-19 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.



Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

AHEC State and National Leadership

Mid-Hudson Rural Integrated Delivery System Provider Network Board and **Eastern Dutchess Rural Health Network Advisory Board** [Catskill Hudson (CHAHEC)]; **Board of Trustees to Erie Community College** [Erie-Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC)]; **Community Care of Brooklyn Community Engagement Committee** [Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC)]; **NYS Association for Rural Health** [CHAHEC, Northern AHEC (NAHEC), Western New York Rural AHEC (R-AHEC) and Central Regional Office (CRO)]; **State Workforce Advisory Group** [(Statewide Office, Hudson-Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC), and Northern AHEC (NAHEC)]; **National AHEC Organization (NAO) Center Director Constituency Group Representative** and Chair, **NAO Diversity Committee** [Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC (MSI AHEC)]; Vice Chair, **Resource Center for Accessible Living of Ulster County Board of Directors** (CHAHEC) and **NYS Health Innovation Plan** (NYS AHEC System Director); **Project TEACH Education Committee Member** (Statewide Office), **DSRIP/SHIP Workforce Workgroups, Planning and Advisory Committees.**

Publications and Presentations

Staff across the NYS AHEC System presented at the following conferences/seminars:

- ♦ NYS AHEC System Statewide Office Members. HRSA Behavioral Health Opioid Learning Collaborative, “**NYS AHEC Opioid Expansion Project**” presented in Rockville, MD: December 2018.
- ♦ Statewide Office Members and AHEC Center Directors (BQ LI, BW, EN, and MSI). Black, Hispanic, and Puerto Rico Legislative Caucus, “**Introduction to NYS AHEC System**” presented in Albany, NY: March 2019.
- ♦ NYS AHEC System Statewide Office Members. SUNY Academic Leadership Retreat, “**Introduction to NYS AHEC System**” presented in Albany, NY: April 2019.

NYS AHEC System Online Activities

To meet the overarching NYS AHEC goals of increased awareness and retention, the statewide office has been promoting an increased and positive online presence. In June, the NYS AHEC System launched its new and completely renovated website (www.nysahec.org), which provides users with improved menu navigation, more concise and visually appealing front pages, and responsive page designs for alternative web access via mobile devices. The new website includes pages that identify additional resources with links to external information, such as governmental sites, professional associations, and our Health Professions Education Guide (a comprehensive guide of all health-related career programs offered at colleges and other educational institutions throughout NYS). The new website also highlights current pipeline, continuing education, rotation, and internship programs throughout the NYS AHEC System. A statewide program calendar is regularly updated, and details the activities, locations, and dates of upcoming programs across each of the nine centers and four regional offices. In addition to the above user-friendly changes, the new website facilitates back-end development, including simplified update capabilities, easier content development, and improved web analytics and tracking.

The NYS AHEC System also utilizes social media 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. Platforms are regularly maintained, monitored, and updated, with previous posts including: 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, local enrollments; and National Health Service Corps applications); and Upcoming healthcare-related holidays/celebrations (e.g. National Nurses Week, Thank a Doctor Day, etc.).

