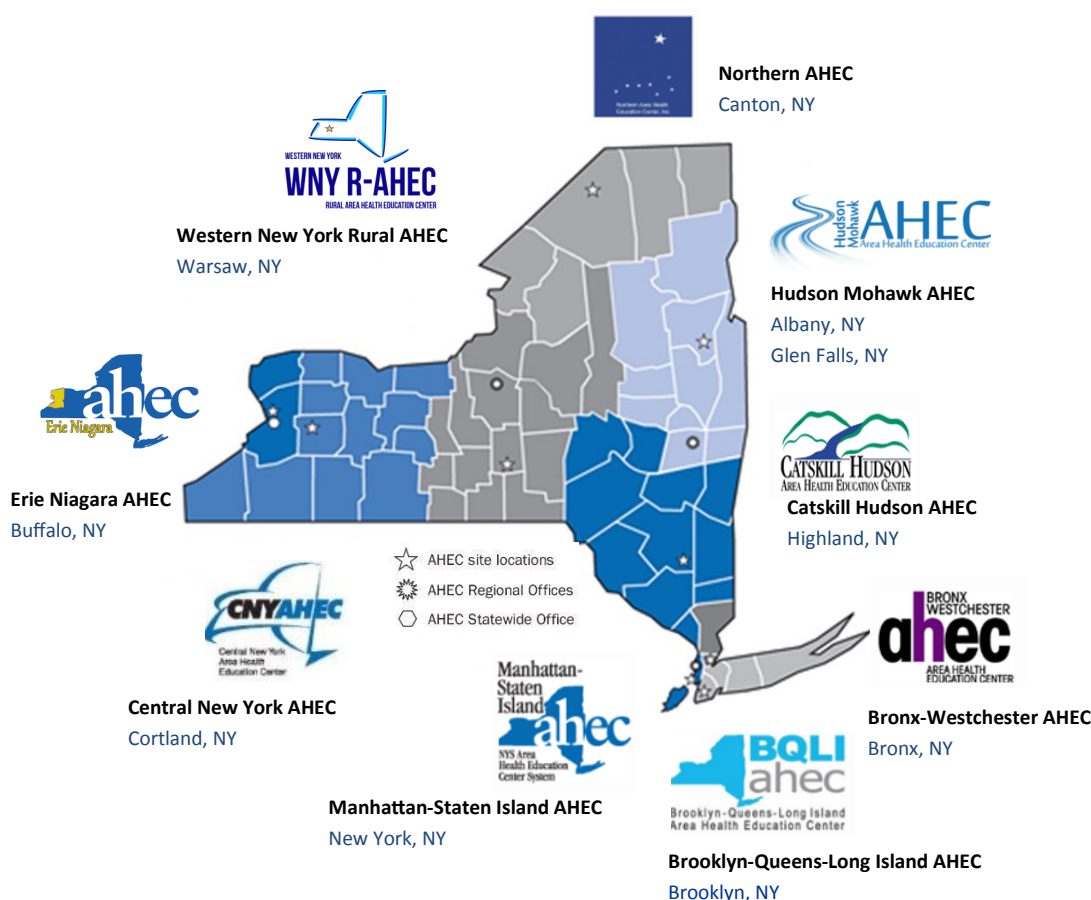




Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

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.

2019-20 Year in Review

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES	2
OVERVIEW	3
EVALUATION/OUTCOMES	4
NYS AHEC SCHOLARS	5
HEALTH CAREER PROGRAMS	6
HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS	8
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	10
SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING OPIOID PREVENTION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES	12
LEVERAGING NYS SUPPORT	13

Statewide Office

University at Buffalo,
Dept. of Family Medicine
77 Goodell St, Suite 220
Buffalo, NY 14203
716-816-7225
www.nysahec.org

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

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>

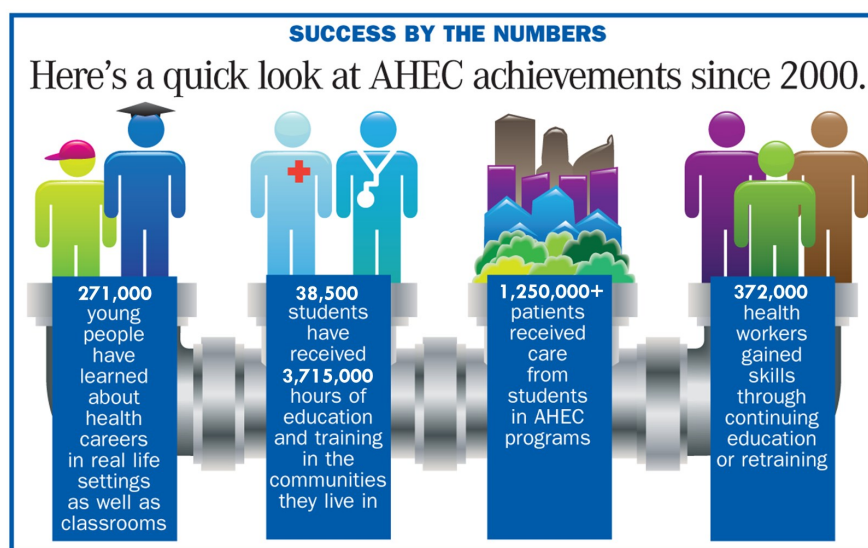
[2] New York State Department of Labor: Long Term Industry Employment Projections, 2012-2022. [Chart]. Retrieved from <https://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/lproj.shtm>.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

Overview: Outreach 2018-2019

- ◆ Roughly 1,000 elementary and middle school students, nearly 7,500 high school students and approximately 3,000 college students participated in health careers programs.
- ◆ Over 550 rotations were completed by medical, nursing and health professions students at AHEC-sponsored community-based sites (e.g., community health centers, hospitals, clinics and private practices) with an emphasis on underserved communities.
- ◆ Approximately 72,000 health professionals received continuing education training via 70 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:

- 88** academic institutions;
- 192** elementary/secondary schools;
- 340** hospitals/health care systems/clinics/networks; and
- 240** community and professional organizations/government agencies/businesses.

Alignment with NYS Department of Health Priorities

- ◆ The New York State AHEC System is deeply involved in several NYS Department of Health initiatives. As the health care system transitions to deliver patient-centered care with increased efficiency, the NYS AHEC System is a leader among community collaborators focusing on the development and enhancement of an adequate supply of well-trained medical and allied health professionals. The NYS AHEC System is a consistent voice emphasizing that programs must include recruiting and training of future health professionals who will carry on health system transformation. As neutral brokers with more than twenty 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.
- ◆ Moreover, many of the NYS AHEC System Programs target NYS DOH priorities, including but not limited to opioid awareness and education, maternal and child health, behavioral health integration, and cultural competency/social determinants of health.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

What is a Logic Model?

The logic model has proven to be a successful tool for program planning as well as implementation and performance management in numerous fields. A logic model is defined as a graphical/textual representation of how a program is intended to work and links outcomes with processes and the theoretical assumptions of the program. It is a depiction of a program or project showing what the program or project will do and what it is to accomplish. It is a framework for describing the relationships between resources, activities and results as they related to a specific program or project goal. The logic model also helps to make underlying assumptions about the program or project explicit.

Why use a Logic Model?

A logic model is an efficient tool that requires little resources other than personnel time. Since evaluation dollars are not usually set aside in AHEC Center budgets, the cost-efficiency of this framework is attractive. In addition, the process of developing the logic model requires AHEC Center team members to work together in a manner that has a side benefit of improving team relationships and focus.

Evaluation

NYS AHEC System Statewide Evaluation Plan Updates

The NYSAHEC Statewide Evaluation Plan was based on the RE-AIM Framework (Reach, Efficacy, Adoption, Implementation, and Maintenance), which is well matched to inform the specific needs of the NYSAHEC System Program including the centers, regional offices, partners, policy makers, strategic partnerships and funders. However, we found that our comprehensive collection of demographic and program data would not allow us to evaluate the individual center-level programs based on the nuances of each centers' programs, resources, population and partners. We find that each of our centers not only serve vastly different populations (rural, urban, minority, low SES, etc.), but also provide vastly different types of programming. For example, each of our centers have varying levels of programming expertise as determined by the populations they serve and the partnerships they form. Due to these nuances, all nine of our centers offer different pipeline, college practicum/field placements and/or continuing education programming.

During the Summer/Fall of 2019, with the realization that changes would need to be implemented within the statewide evaluation plan to better evaluate programs at the center-level, we decided to utilize a new tool that would allow us to better understand, describe and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of specific center-level programs. Each of the centers has been working with the Statewide Evaluation team to develop a Logic Model for at least one of their programs. Logic Models are developed to provide a comprehensive description of the evaluation plan and provide a quick snapshot of how the program operates and what it intends to accomplish. We often see Logic Models utilized within grant proposals or within strategic planning. However, in working backwards with each of the centers to develop a logic model based on their current program, we have found it to be a useful tool to recognize weaknesses, gaps and strengths. We have also found that it is a great way to show stakeholders the shared relationships among the resources, activities, outputs, outcomes, and impact for the center programs.

The Statewide Evaluation report will be completed by August 31, 2020 and will provide an in-depth overview of one program from each of the nine centers utilizing a Logic Model. With each logic model, we will input actual data obtained from each center that will show the following:

- **Goals/Objectives** of the program
- **Assumptions:** Why this program is needed based on the gaps/needs in the community
- **Inputs:** staff, partners, funding, tools and resources needed to effectively implement the program
- **Targets:** the population they are trying to recruit vs. who they recruited
- **Activities & Objectives:** how the program was implemented including the curriculum, activities and timeline
- **Outputs:** participant demographics, # hours didactic or experiential trainings, type of activities, topics covered, # students recruited, # students completed, % improvement in competencies, etc.
- **Results:** includes immediate, intermediate and longitudinal evaluation such as: student reflections, changes in behavior overtime, graduation, degrees earned, work placement, etc.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

NYS AHEC Scholars Program

The NYS AHEC System continues to implement and expand its AHEC Scholars Program. This year marked the second year of implementation, and ushered in a new cohort of AHEC Scholar participants for this two-year longitudinal interdisciplinary program. Due to some challenges as a result of our hot-spotting approach, AHEC centers now have the opportunity to implement a more community-based program, thereby adding new flexibility regarding partner and program structure. Using the standardized student application via each center's website and strategic partners, over 60 student applications across the state have been received. A total of 14 returning AHEC Scholar Students progressed into year 2, while 40 new students were accepted into the program for their first year.

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:

During the program 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, roughly 1,150 hours of didactic training have been completed by Cohort 1 and by Cohort 2. 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 1,500 cumulative hours of experiential training have been completed by Cohorts 1 and 2.



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, inter-disciplinary 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, 2019 through June 30, 2020

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:

- ◆ Catskill-Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC), Central NY AHEC (CNYAHEC), Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC), Northern (NAHEC), and Erie-Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC) hosted **MASH, MedQuest, HealthQuest and/or Summer Camps** for over 290 elementary, middle, and high school students with hands-on exposure to local health careers.
- ◆ AHECs provided **internships and job shadows opportunities** for roughly 55 high school and college students interested in healthcare careers.
- ◆ Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC), Bronx-Westchester AHEC (BW AHEC), Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC (MSI AHEC) conducted a **Summer Health Internship** program for 85 high school/college students.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ ENAHEC and R-AHEC provided over 300 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.
- ◆ 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 for 25 high school students.
- ◆ BW AHEC implemented their **Teen Health Community Program** this year, providing high school students with the skills to increase their understanding of healthcare disparities & the social determinants of health as it relates to their communities. A total of 102 students participated, culminating the program with a final community service project focusing on a student health engagement fair.

Health Careers Awareness Programs

- ◆ Approximately **4,700** 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 its partner Northern Borders Academy, is working to support the local P-TECH Program with career exposure activities, healthcare guest speaker lectures, and career guidance.
- ◆ Roughly 650 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, 2019 through June 30, 2020

Pipeline Program Spotlight– Emerging Health Scholars



Erie Niagara AHEC's Emerging Health Scholars program is dedicated to helping high school students explore the healthcare and STEM fields, and prepares them to pursue a degree in those areas. Students meet afterschool a minimum of twice per month. During these meetings, students learn about various health careers (such as nursing, physician assistants, dietetics, etc.), as well as important topics that impact commu-

nity health and health behavior. Students learn about important aspects of public health, social determinants of health, and health disparities, while connecting with each other, as well as collegiate students and professionals.

Evaluations for this program have been overwhelmingly positive, with the majority of students sharing that they enjoyed the program and would recommend it to a friend. Several students from the first EHS cohort have graduated from high school and will be pursuing degrees at the University at Buffalo and Canisius College. When asked to provide comments regarding their experience, students said:

- ♦ "Erie Niagara AHEC has helped me solidify what I want to pursue as a career. From visiting research labs to understanding how medical school works, my love for the healthcare field has grown immensely. I appreciate everything this opportunity has brought forth."
- ♦ "This program has definitely helped me a lot, especially with my future career. Without the help of Erie Niagara AHEC, I wouldn't have been able to meet an anesthesiologist and get advice for my career plan, or had the support for getting accepted to college. I would love to see this program continue to thrive and inspire other young adults to pursue a career in medicine."



"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

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

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:
 - * **325 Medical Rotations**
 - * **49 Public Health Rotations**
 - * **22 Nursing Rotations**
 - * **20 Pharmacy Rotations**
 - * **120+ Other Health Professional Rotations** (including Social Work, , Public Health, and Health Sciences)
- ♦ **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 2019, 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 students and professionals in the area. Over 25 medical/health professions students and visiting providers received **housing support**.
- ♦ Northern AHEC and Catskill-Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) continued their **Rural Immersion Programs**. Roughly 20 pre-med and 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 Touro University, SUNY Upstate, Carthage Area Hospital, Lewis County General Hospital, and Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center.
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ 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.

Ongoing Summer Programs

- ♦ Both BQLI AHEC and MSI AHEC are hosting virtual versions of their **Summer Health Internship Program (SHIP)**. Together, over 30 participants are enrolled.
- ♦ MSI AHEC is also hosting their **Community Health Experience Lecture Series** virtually. Nineteen 2nd year medical students and 5 **Health Career Internship** students are participating. Both programs will run through July.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

Health Professions Student Program Spotlight– Community Health Experience

In collaboration with the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, all three NYC metropolitan AHECs (BQLI AHEC, BW AHEC, and MSI AHEC) coordinated the Community Health Experience for a total of 10 participants. The program, designed for medical school students who have completed their first year, provides participants with a six-week long placement at a local health facility or community-based organization. Geared towards diverse community and public health experiences, students are not only exposed to underrepresented populations, but 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 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, students responded:

- ♦ *"This program was a great opportunity and it gave me a better understanding of the factors affecting underserved communities."*
- ♦ *"This program has given me the most hands-on, learning experience I have ever received."*
- ♦ *"This program gave me a chance to affirm my belief that I belonged in the health field. I was able to interact with professionals whilst also providing assistance to the ones who needed it most."*



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.

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

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

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 the Columbia-Greene **EMS Education Day** serving over 40 emergency services and emergency room professionals. Additionally, Hudson Mohawk (HMAHEC) and Northern AHEC (NAHEC) collaborated with local EMS groups and academic institutions to co-host three **EMS related leadership and management events**, drawing a total of 124 EMS specialists and instructors.
- ◆ Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC) continued to add **InService Solutions** (ISS) clients. Over 72,000 individuals completed roughly 35,000 hours of training over 15 modules. Northern AHEC (NAHEC) also utilized ISS to offer local partners ongoing CE programs. Over 1,500 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 4,400 individuals, including current and aspiring healthcare professionals and the general community. ENAHEC also provided **training on health literacy, implicit bias, and social change** for roughly 750 health professionals and community members.
- ◆ Catskill-Hudson AHEC hosted their Health Professions Seminar in the Fall. The event focused again, by popular demand, on the impact of **Adverse Childhood Experiences**. Over 100 aspiring and current health professionals were in attendance.
- ◆ Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC) partnered with the National AHEC Organization (NAO) to host two **HPV Prevention and Vaccine Awareness events** for 170 current and future healthcare practitioners.
- ◆ The Statewide Office held a training in October on how to **provide quality care to members of the LGBTQ adolescent population**. The event addressing stigmatizing language and behavioral health integration for nearly 25 health professionals and community members.



Selected Continuing Education/Faculty Development Programs

Continuing Education Topic	No. of Programs	No. of Participants
Cultural Competency/Health Disparities	20	4,409
Emergency Management Training	4	167
Healthcare Leadership/Professional Development	4	82
Behavioral Health Integration	2	130
Care Coordination/Care Transitions	2	36

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

Program Spotlight– Community Health Worker Training

Hudson Mohawk AHEC held a successful virtual Community Health Worker training in May and June. The program, originally scheduled to be held in Troy and Glens Falls in March and April, was rescheduled and held in a virtual format due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This FREE training was offered to community health workers, care coordinators, service navigators and any health support staff who are dedicated to improving the health outcomes of their clientele. The training provides new and incumbent community health worker staff with the necessary theoretical and practical knowledge to address a number of health needs in the community, with topics addressing: health coaching, motivational interviewing, health literacy, social determinants of health and cultural competency, behavioral health and substance use disorders, workplace competencies and scope of practice, and client assessments and referrals.

Through ten training modules, over 40 participants gained necessary core competencies and knowledge of the communities and populations they support. The program was very well received, with participants expressing appreciation at the amount and breadth of knowledge and resources provided. When asked about the program, attendees stated:

- *“This class stimulated my thinking about the many situations where Community Health Workers can fill a need that cannot be filled by [the] medical community.”*
- *“I live in a more rural area where resources are not always readily available to people. It was helpful to learn about ways that I can support the people on my caseload.”*

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.

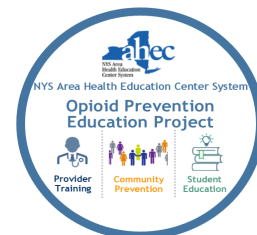


Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

ONGOING: Supplemental Funding Activities: Opioid Prevention Education Project

In September 2019, the NYS AHEC System received supplemental funding from the federal Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) totaling over \$172,345 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 Outcome to Date:

Six AHEC centers (Erie Niagara AHEC, Western New York Rural AHEC, Hudson Mohawk AHEC, Manhattan Staten Island AHEC, Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC, and Bronx-Westchester AHEC) are currently participating in the project, which focuses on the following objectives:

♦ Objective 1: Community Engagement and Outreach

Centers have coordinated 20 of the required 36 community events, with several upcoming events planned. Reaching over 1,000 participants, these events have included free Narcan Trainings, Peer Advocate Presentations, a Research and Community Collaborative Symposium, a Care Coordination Summit, Resource Fairs, and more. As a result of the current pandemic, centers were forced to transition community events to an online platform. Informational webinars and online trainings are being utilized to reach community members across New York State.

♦ Objective 2: High School and College Student Awareness

Centers have completed 64 of the required 90 tabling events. By developing creative solutions in an effort to reach students during the Coronavirus lockdown, such as poster boards displayed at school lunch pick up centers, targeted social media posts, or presenting to marginalized students, participating AHEC Centers have been able to reach 5,764 participants.

	Obj. 1: Community Events	Obj. 2: Tabling Events
TOTAL	20 Events: 1,311 Participants	64 Events 5,764 Students

NEW: Supplemental Funding Activities: COVID Education and Training

At the end of May 2020, the NYS AHEC System received notification that they had been awarded additional funds totaling \$95,455 to help expand training and education related to COVID-19 for current and future healthcare workforce members. This supplemental funding is valid for one year only, through April 30, 2021. A total of six AHEC Centers agreed to participate: Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC, Bronx-Westchester AHEC, Erie-Niagara AHEC, Hudson-Mohawk AHEC, Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC, and Western New York Rural AHEC.

As part of their participation in this project, the AHEC Centers will be responsible for the following specific and measurable objective:

♦ Objective 1: Community Engagement and Outreach

In collaboration with area partners, AHEC Centers will coordinate and host a Healthcare Workforce Training/Continuing Education Series, inclusive of at least 36 educational or training events, for a minimum of 600 current and/or future health professionals (physicians, nurses, physician assistants, behavioral health practitioners, social workers, students, etc.) focused specifically on addressing practice needs related to COVID-19. Example topics to be addressed include, but are not limited to: telehealth services, infectious disease best practices, practitioner self-care/resiliency, trauma-informed care, and social determinants of health/stigma reduction for vulnerable and/or positive patient populations.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

Leveraging NYS Investment

- ♦ **“Western NY Genetics in Research Partnership”** The year marked the final no-cost extension year for the grant. 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. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual capstone was held in June, providing participating students and teachers the opportunity to present their projects. 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. 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.
- ♦ BQLI AHEC was awarded several new grants including: 1) \$126,000 from Grants Associates for continued operation of the New York City Department of Education CTE ISP program; 2) \$19,999 from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Middle Atlantic region; and 3) \$10,000 subcontract with the Academy for Health Careers High School.
- ♦ CHAHEC has been awarded funds to support continuing education for health providers, especially in rural areas, to promote usage of the HPV vaccine, by way of the National AHEC Organization and the CDC. CHAHEC further signed an agreement with Westchester Medical Center Health PPS and the Eastern Dutchess Rural Health Network to fund Scrubs Clubs in educational institutions in the Hudson Valley.
- ♦ CNY AHEC received a small grant from NYS Association of Rural Health (NYSARH) to conduct research into a Student Recruitment campaign for fall of 2019 through summer of 2020. CNY AHEC also secured funding for 5 MASH camps from the Leatherstocking Community Health Partners (LCHP) PPS.
- ♦ ENAHEC and R-AHEC remained subcontractors on the Doctors Across New York Ambulatory Practice Program to help facilitate medical student and resident placements in underserved areas. The program ended in March.

Objective #6:

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

The \$1,662,000 in 2019-20 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, 2019 through June 30, 2020

NEW Statewide Office Grants

The NYS AHEC System is proud to announce that they have been awarded the following grant awards:

Re-Employment Support and Training for the Opioid Epidemic (RESTORE) Program

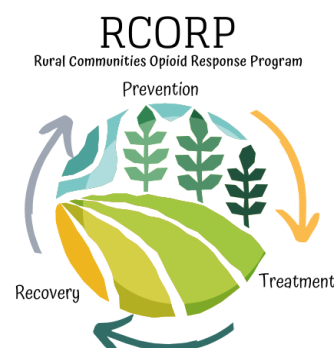


The NYS AHEC System has received funding from the Department of Labor, Women's Bureau to directly address the employment needs of women affected by the opioid crisis and combat its impact in some of the hardest hit areas of the country. This 2.5 year program convenes community partners with experience offering programming to women. Together, we will (a) provide coordinated, employment focused services to women impacted by the opioid crisis; (b) offer additional supportive services to women impacted by the opioid crisis; and (c) establish cooperative relationships among supportive service providers to train and employ women workers affected by the opioid crisis in the Greater Buffalo Niagara area. This program supplements ongoing efforts by

the NYS AHEC System to counteract the effects of the opioid crisis in the region and across the state, while leveraging our history as a workforce development organization.

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)

The NYS AHEC System has received funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration to strengthen and expand substance use/opioid use prevention, treatment, and recovery service delivery in high-risk rural areas. This three year program assembles a consortium of direct care providers, local county health agencies, and community non-profit organizations to accomplish each of the project objectives listed below. Together, the consortium will (a) identify and implement comprehensive OUD screening, treatment, tracking, and recovery services; and (b) develop and provide extensive trainings related to substance use prevention, community and family education, professional development, and provider/local community resources and services. Two AHEC Centers (Hudson Mohawk AHEC and Western New York Rural AHEC) will be collaborating with direct service providers, including Spectrum Health and Human Services, Montgomery County Public Health Department, and Citizen Advocates, to help support the initiatives of this program.



Opioid Use Peer Recovery Network Development Project



OPIOID USE PEER RECOVERY
NETWORK DEVELOPMENT



The NYS AHEC System has received funding from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation to directly address the training and employment needs of individuals with lived experience related to the opioid epidemic. The lack of qualified opioid peer advocates is a significant barrier for individuals who are in active recovery. While typical healthcare providers support medical treatment, individuals in active recovery require much more than basic medical support. An in-depth, multifaceted and personalized support system, complete with mentors who have been in similar situations and can provide guidance, empathy, and unmatched support, dramatically reduces relapse prevalence and improves overall recovery rates. This one-year program will develop and grow a network of certified peer advocates to enhance recovery for individuals struggling with opioid use disorder. The project aims to serve

individuals in current recovery (at least 1 year) who are looking to be gainfully employed as well as support other individuals struggling with opioid use disorder. This project will provide trainees the tools and structure that they need to gain active employment, while helping to expand the capacity and infrastructure of substance use recovery system throughout Western New York.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

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); **University at Buffalo Community Health Equity Research Institute**, Steering Committee Member (Statewide Office); **Project TEACH Education Committee** Member (Statewide Office), **DSRIP/SHIP Workforce Workgroups, Planning and Advisory Committees**.

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 2019, 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..

