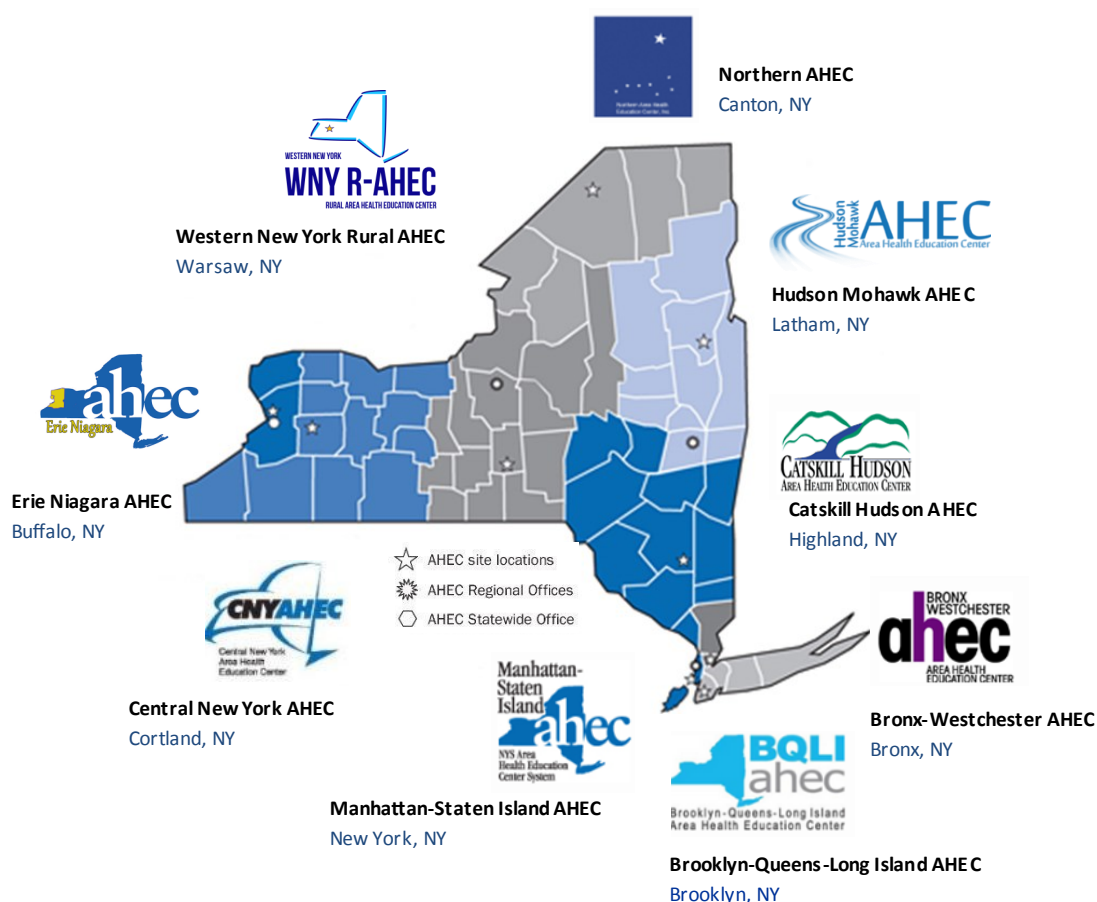




# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

## NEW YORK STATE AHEC SYSTEM

*“Connecting Students to Careers, Professionals to Communities,  
and Communities to Better 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.

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## Statewide Office

University at Buffalo,  
Dept. of Family Medicine  
77 Goodell St, Suite 220  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716-816-7225  
[www.nysahec.org](http://www.nysahec.org)

# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

### 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 2021 HRSA data, there are approximately 4.97 million New Yorkers identified as residing in locales designated as "underserved" throughout New York's nearly 175 Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).<sup>[1]</sup> It would require nearly 1,100 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.<sup>[2]</sup> 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 2021 (June 2021). [Chart]. Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from <https://data.hrsa.gov/Default/GenerateHPSAQuarterlyReport>

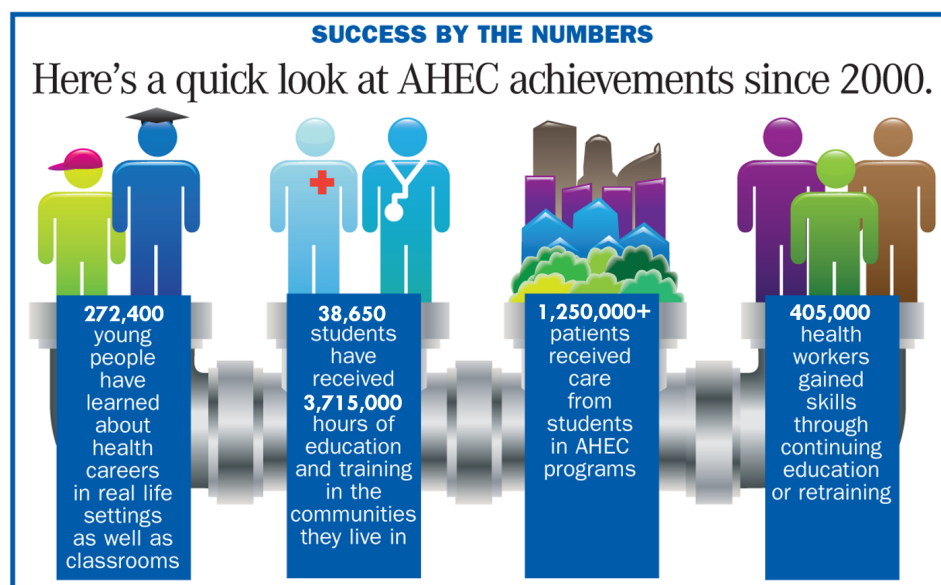
[2] New York State Department of Labor: Long Term Industry Employment Projections, 2012-2022. [Chart]. Retrieved from <https://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/lsp/sproj.htm>

# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

### Overview: Outreach 2020-2021

- ◆ Roughly 900 high school students and approximately 500 college students participated in health careers programs.
- ◆ Nearly 140 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 33,000 health professionals received continuing education training via 75 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

- ◆ 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.

### 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:*

- 84 academic institutions;*
- 157 elementary/secondary schools;*
- 347 hospitals/health care systems/clinics/networks; and nearly*
- 170 community and professional organizations/government agencies/businesses.*

# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

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### Overview of NYS AHEC System Program Evaluation

The NYS AHEC System is taking a collaborative and participatory approach to statewide evaluation. The evaluation plan drives the planning process for the program. As a result, they are linked through parallel conceptualization and development. Our plan is systematic, broad-based and integrates evaluation within all stated objectives and activities. Therefore, the goals and objectives provide implicit evaluation standards by which evaluation achievements can be assured, as the objectives also provide outcome measures.

### Evaluation

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#### NYS AHEC System Statewide Evaluation Plan Updates

- The NYSAHEC Statewide Evaluation Plan is 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. In reviewing our goals and objectives, an in-depth data analysis details the following:
  - **Objective 1: Pipeline Programs –Goal Obtained.** Health career pipeline activities and tools are being provided to students, especially targeted at MUC and/or underrepresented students. Underrepresented minorities in New York State make up approximately 31.1% of the state’s population, yet the NYSAHEC System has successfully recruited on average 50% underrepresented minority students who live in MUCs, to participate in their pipeline programs.
  - **Objective 2: Internships and Rotations for Health Profession Students – Goal Partially Obtained.** To obtain goal completely, 100% of all placements should be within a MUC and/or a team-based setting. On average (over the last few year), the NYS AHEC System have about 82% of the placements being within a MUC and/or team-based setting.
  - **Objective 3: Continuing Education – Goal Obtained.** Within the last two years, roughly 142,000 current health professionals participated in continuing education activities facilitated by NYS AHEC Centers, with over 50% of them working within MUCs or within primary care settings.
  - **Objective 4: AHEC Scholars Program– Goal Partially Obtained.** Although participant recruitment and retention numbers need to improve, participation reviews have been overwhelmingly positive as shown via their qualitative comments and feedback.
  - **Objective 5: Connecting Graduates to MUCs – Goal Partially Obtained.** Centers are identifying and advertising vacancies in MUCs via their websites and social media accounts.
  - **Objective 6: Strategic Partnership Development– Goal Obtained.** Centers are successfully continuing to develop strategic partnerships to leverage resources and expand program services.
  - **Objective 7: External Funding and Program Enhancement– Goal Obtained.** AHEC Centers, as well as the Statewide Office, are continually preparing and submitting proposals for new grant opportunities, and successfully receiving external funding from grants and contracts. AHEC Centers are also continuing to build infrastructures to obtain and maintain external funding via new or extended programs and initiatives.

# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

### NYS AHEC Scholars Program

The NYS AHEC System continues to implement and expand its AHEC Scholars Program. This year marked the third year of implementation, and ushered in a new cohort of AHEC Scholar participants for this two-year longitudinal interdisciplinary program. Due to challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, AHEC centers utilized a wide variety of virtual experiential learning opportunities, thereby adding new flexibility regarding program structure and participant completion. Using the standardized student application via each center's website and strategic partners, over 250 student applications across the state have been received. A total of 25 returning AHEC Scholar Students progressed into year 2, while 82 new students were accepted into the program for their first year as Cohort 3.

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 1,275 hours of didactic training have been completed by Cohort 2 and by Cohort 3. Students have also been participating in virtual experiential learning opportunities addressing medically underserved and rural areas. To date, nearly 400 cumulative hours of experiential training have been completed by Cohorts 2 and 3.

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

- ◆ "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."
- ◆ "[This program]....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, 2020 through June 30, 2021

## 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 Awareness Programs

## Multi-Session Programs

- ◆ Manhattan-Statton Island (MSI AHEC), and Western New York Rural AHEC (RAHEC) hosted **Summer Programs** for over 25 high school and college students with hands-on exposure to local health careers.
- ◆ Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC), and Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC) provided **internships and job shadows opportunities** for roughly 90 high school and college students interested in healthcare careers.
- ◆ BQLI AHEC and Erie Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC) hosted **career exposure pathway programs** for 80 students.
- ◆ EN AHEC also continued their **Emerging Health Scholars Program** for an average cohort of 15 students to address community health and health behavior topics, including social determinants of health, and health disparities, as well as explore public health careers.

## Single Session Programs

- ◆ Approximately **950** 9-12 and college students attended **single session awareness programs** via career fairs, and remote presentations. These single session events increase awareness and exposure to health-related careers through lectures, hands-on activities, and demonstrations.
- ◆ Roughly 290 high school students participated in “How to Build Your Career in Health Care” presentations hosted by Hudson Mohawk AHEC to help expose students to the various jobs, educational, and professional requirements necessary to become a member of the healthcare workforce.



## Scholarships Across the System

The NYS AHEC System would like to congratulate all of our Scholarship Recipients!

- ◆ In May, Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HM AHEC) awarded ten \$500 scholarships to area high school and college students interested in or already pursuing a healthcare related program at a local college and/or a certification program. All awardees were residents of HM AHEC's 10 county catchment area. Scholarship information was mailed out, as the in-person ceremony was cancelled due to COVID concerns.



- ◆ In October, Central New York AHEC (CNY AHEC) presented the Dr. Wolff MD Scholarship to Anastasia S. As part of the scholarship requirements, applicants must have completed at least one AHEC program and will be entering a medical or health professions program next semester. Additionally, scholarship recipients must exhibit Dr. Wolff's spirit, integrity and dedication to providing care to those most in need. Anastasia participated in a CNY MASH Camp in 2013 as a middle school student, and will now be entering a health professions program.

# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

### Pipeline Program Spotlight– CTE ISP for High School Students



Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC, in collaboration with the New York City Department of Education, operated a Career and Technical Industry Scholars Program (CTE ISP) for 60 high school students in the Summer of 2020. For six weeks, CTE ISP students participate in experiential learning activities aimed at gaining real-world work experience while developing skills for the future.

As a result of the pandemic, the program was held virtually this year, with students participating in remote summer internships at various community-based sites, including Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island in Brooklyn, the Harlem Congregation for Community Improvement and the New York Dream Center. Additionally, students participated in group projects focused on health issues and disparities, including checking in on homebound seniors, updating outreach materials, and inputting/organizing information needed for program services. Lastly, all students attended weekly didactic sessions presented by guest health professions speakers. This year's didactic focus was on the COVID-19 pandemic, with discussions about epidemiology, vaccine development, and public health approaches to widespread issues.

The program was well received, with the majority of students sharing that they enjoyed the program and would recommend it to a friend. When asked to provide comments regarding their experience, students said:

- ♦ "My placement site was the Brooklyn Perinatal Network. BPN was a very welcoming organization that taught me a lot about health equity. Through my role as a research coordinator, I was able to achieve a better understanding of the different factors that go into health care. This understanding has shaped me to be more conscious about the array of situations and factors to consider when going into health care."
- ♦ "The most important thing BQLI AHEC has taught me during this internship was the importance of perseverance within the health care profession. Almost all of the speakers addressed the various struggles and obstacles that they faced when pursuing a health profession, however, most of them also emphasized how they got back on track. Through these speakers, I have learned to stay true to my passions and fight for my aspirations."
- ♦ "I was placed researching and brainstorming interview questions to ask different health workers and get some insight into how the pandemic affected them. I enjoyed listening to their stories and telling me about their life/work style. Throughout the interviews I learned that teamwork is so important in the healthcare field and based on their stories, I never realized how hard and stressful their jobs are. But they always look at the bright side and love their job. That's the type of passion their looking for, for students who want to join in the health care field."



*"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."*  
CNYA HEC 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, 2020 through June 30, 2021

### 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, and SUNY Upstate Medical University provided students with the following community-based experiential and/or clinical learning:
  - \* **95 Medical Rotations**
  - \* **18 Public Health Rotations**
  - \* **2 Occupational Therapy Rotations**
  - \* **2 Physical Therapy Rotations**
  - \* **1 Nursing Rotation**
  - \* **20 Pharmacy Rotations**
  - \* **9 Other Health Professional Rotations** (including Social Work, Radiology Technician, and Health Sciences)
- ♦ **Rotation sites included community health centers, ambulatory care sites, hospitals and non-profit community organizations** including NY Metropolitan Region Office/Institute for Family Health (IFH) medical student rotations at ECHO Free Clinic (Einstein), LECOM medical placements at Wyoming County Community Health System, veterinary placements at Perry Veterinary Clinic, and public health placements at both Erie Niagara AHEC and Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC.
- ♦ During the summer of 2020, Manhattan Staten Island AHEC provided roughly 20 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 that 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. Roughly 30 medical/health professions students and visiting providers received **housing support**.
- ♦ Northern AHEC and Central New York (CNY AHEC) continued their **Rural Immersion Programs**. Twelve premedical 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 Canton-Potsdam 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.

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### Ongoing Summer Programs

- ♦ BQLI AHEC, BW AHEC and MSI AHEC are hosting virtual and hybrid versions of their **Summer Health Internship Program (SHIP)**. Combined, over 45 participants are enrolled.
- ♦ MSI AHEC is also hosting their **Community Health Experience Lecture Series** virtually. Medical students and nursing students will come together once again to participate in didactic sessions addressing health disparities.



# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

### Health Professions Student Program Spotlight– Rural Health Immersion Program

In collaboration with local colleges, healthcare centers, and communities, both Central New York AHEC and Northern AHEC held Rural Immersion Programs within their respective catchment areas this year. The program provides students a week-long experience of life as a rural health care provider, and focuses on developing an understanding of rural healthcare settings, including benefits and barriers, and exposure to a wide range of different healthcare professions in a rural setting. Combined, CNY AHEC and Northern AHEC placed 12 students in small rural settings such as Lowville, Potsdam, and Ogdensburg. A routine program since 2013, students have overwhelmingly appreciated the experience, with past participants stating that:

- ♦ *"It was a fantastic experience....It really provided one with an in-depth look at rural or small town health care."*
- ♦ *"This was an important experience for me to have, as I had limited previous exposure to rural medicine....I think rural communities, in many ways, are left out of the conversation on health policy and we need these areas to be part of the discussion on numerous issues, such as access and improved integration of services."*



### 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, 2020 through June 30, 2021

### 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) hosted a multiple presentation series as part of the Emergency Responder Leadership Academy, with topics addressing agency cohesiveness, governance, and strategic planning. Additionally, Hudson Mohawk (HMAHEC) facilitated a podcast series for EMS Board of Directors to discuss topics including board structure, responsibilities, and partnership development.
- ◆ Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC) continued to add **InService Solutions** (ISS) clients. Over 28,000 individuals completed roughly 14,000 hours of training over 15 modules. Northern AHEC (NAHEC) also utilized ISS to offer local partners ongoing CE programs. Nearly 3,400 participants completed their **training on corporate compliance, patient rights and safety, and workplace violence** to stay current on required regulations and certifications.
- ◆ Erie Niagara AHEC hosted multiple **Cultural Competency and Social Determinants Awareness Trainings** to roughly 350 individuals, including current and aspiring healthcare professionals and the general community. ENAHEC also provided **training on maternal health, trauma informed care, implicit bias, and social change** for roughly 470 health professionals and community members.
- ◆ Hudson Mohawk hosted their Community Health Worker Training series for roughly 10 participants in the fall. The training provides 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.
- ◆ The Statewide Office held a training in April on how to **address ethics in healthcare**. The event addressed how to deal with specific patient populations (including elder care) and healthcare disparities for roughly 20 health professions students, professionals and community members.



### Selected Continuing Education/Faculty Development Programs

Continuing Education Topic	No. of Programs	No. of Participants
Cultural Competency/Health Disparities	21	688
Professional Development	14	159
Emergency Management Training	11	295
Maternal/Family Health	5	135
Care Coordination/Care Transitions	5	93
Behavioral Health/Mental Health	4	52

# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

### Program Spotlight– Care Coordination Certificate Program

Western New York Rural AHEC held multiple sessions of their Care Coordination Certificate Program over the past year as part of their ATHOS (Advancement Training for Health Care Occupations) division. Dedicated to addressing critical challenges in health, specifically barrier to communication and the development of strong patient-provider relationship, the ATHOS division of WNY R-AHEC offers a wide range of continuing educational programs and resources for healthcare professionals.



This Care Coordination Certificate Training program focuses on training and enhancing healthcare workers tasked with the functional coordination of community resources and services. The training provides individuals with techniques to boost patient-centered care, improve culturally competent healthcare service delivery, and reinforce professional behaviors in the workplace.

Over the course of the past year, 4 cohorts of participants totaling 84 trainees completed the Care Coordination Certificate Program. 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 should be a mandatory requirement for any entry level employee for all medical practices. Most front end staff are not educated or trained prior to starting their jobs and this could bring such value to the staff and patients!"*
- *"I would like to say, WOW, just WOW with regards to some of the content in the course! Module 5 contains many things I was not aware of. I am bringing a lot of this back to my practices and I honestly think that every primary care office should have their staff take this course. It would improve the care provided to patients (the person) across the state if they did! Again.... I value this course and hope it will be available for more people to take it in the future!"*
- *"Thank you for this excellent opportunity....I now feel we have the practical knowledge necessary to begin and I am no longer afraid to move forward with this component of patient care!"*
- *"I really enjoyed the program. It was very helpful and informational. It was definitely a great learning experience. I will use all of the tools that I gained from the program in my current role as a care manager."*

### 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.**



## Advancement Training For Healthcare Occupations



### CARE COORDINATION ESSENTIALS

**Modules include**

- Cultural Competency and Health Literacy
- Professionalism and Ethics
- Introduction of New Models of Care and Healthcare Trends
- Interdisciplinary Teams
- Person-Centered Care and Communication
- Chronic Disease and Social Determinants of Health
- Quality Improvement in the Healthcare Setting
- Community Orientation
- Health Information Technology, Documentation and Confidentiality

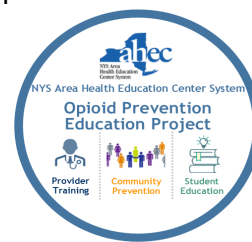


# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

### ONGOING: Supplemental Funding Activities: Opioid Prevention Education Project

In September 2020, the NYS AHEC System received supplemental funding from the federal Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) totaling over \$255,000 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 Outcome to Date:

Seven AHEC centers (Catskill Hudson AHEC, 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 over 15 community events, with several upcoming events planned. Reaching nearly 415 participants, these events have included free Narcan Trainings, webinar series, and presentations on the impact of opioid and vulnerable populations such as older adults. 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 over 75 student tabling and informational events. By developing creative solutions in an effort to reach students during the Coronavirus lockdown, such as virtual health fairs, remote presentations, targeted social media posts, or presenting to marginalized students, participating AHEC Centers have been able to reach over 3,500 participants.

	Obj. 1: Community Events	Obj. 2: Tabling Events
TOTAL	17 Events: 411 Participants	77 Events 3,577 Students

### Supplemental Funding Activities: COVID Education and Training

At the end of May 2020, the NYS AHEC System received an award notification for supplemental funds totaling \$95,455 to help expand training and education related to COVID-19 for current and future healthcare workforce members. This supplemental funding was 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 were responsible for coordinating/hosting a Healthcare Workforce Training/Continuing Education Series 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.

Over the course of the funding year, the NYS AHEC System successfully facilitated 30 educational/training activities, helping to increase nearly 775 current and future healthcare professionals' knowledge of practice issues related to COVID-19, with topics including but not limited to: infectious disease practices and prevention, practitioner self-care/resiliency, trauma-informed care, social determinants of health challenges for vulnerable patient populations.



# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

### Leveraging NYS Investment



- ◆ 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 \$12,000 from the Uncommon Schools to bring virtual career exploration activities to its students, with programs running October 2020 through February 2021.
- ◆ Catskill Hudson AHEC was awarded \$19,000 from the Network of National Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) to digitize pipeline programming for students grades K-8.
- ◆ CNY AHEC continued its work on a small grant from NYS Association of Rural Health (NYSARH) to conduct research into a Student Recruitment campaign. Due to COVID, an extension of the funding opportunity was requested and approved through fall 2021.
- ◆ Erie Niagara AHEC entered into a contract with funding organization HOPE Buffalo, with the aim of implementing two new pipeline programs including PATCH (Providers and Teens Communicating for Health) and the Youth Leadership Team (YLT). Although this is a pilot effort, future contracts for longer term project goals are likely pending successful deliverable performance. Erie Niagara AHEC also applied for and received funding through the National AHEC Organization for the Maternal Telehealth Access Project (MTAP) to help address maternal health disparities through board outreach efforts. Grant activities concluded on April 30.
- ◆ Western New York Rural AHEC was awarded an Empire State Development grant to support workforce development training beginning in January 2021.

### Objective #6:

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



# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

### Ongoing Statewide Office Grants

The NYS AHEC System continues the work on the following external grant projects:

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

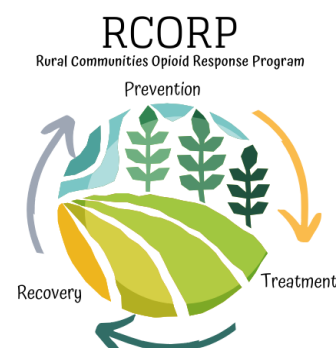


The NYS AHEC System received funding from the Department of Labor, Women's Bureau to directly address the employment needs of women affected by the opioid crisis and combat its impact in some of the hardest hit areas of the country. This multi-year program convenes community partners with experience 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 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 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, 2020 through June 30, 2021

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### 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**.

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### Social Media and Advocacy Campaigns

In an effort to maintain and secure state funding, the NYS AHEC System launched a detailed advocacy campaign targeting key legislators. As part of this Advocacy Campaign, all nine centers were provided with a detailed timeline pertaining to legislative outreach and budgetary processes, sample legislative and community outreach templates, and other guided examples to help garner greater public awareness of NYS AHEC's impact in local communities and across the state.

To further support brand awareness and advocacy efforts, the NYS AHEC System ramped up its social media presence, with the addition of platforms such as Instagram and TikTok. By implementing these social media platforms (in addition to Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn), 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..

**CALL TO ACTION — ADVOCACY ALERT**

**NEW YORK STATE AHEC SYSTEM**  
*Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health!*

**Help to ensure that vital healthcare resources  
continue to exist in YOUR community.**

**WE NEED YOU!!!**