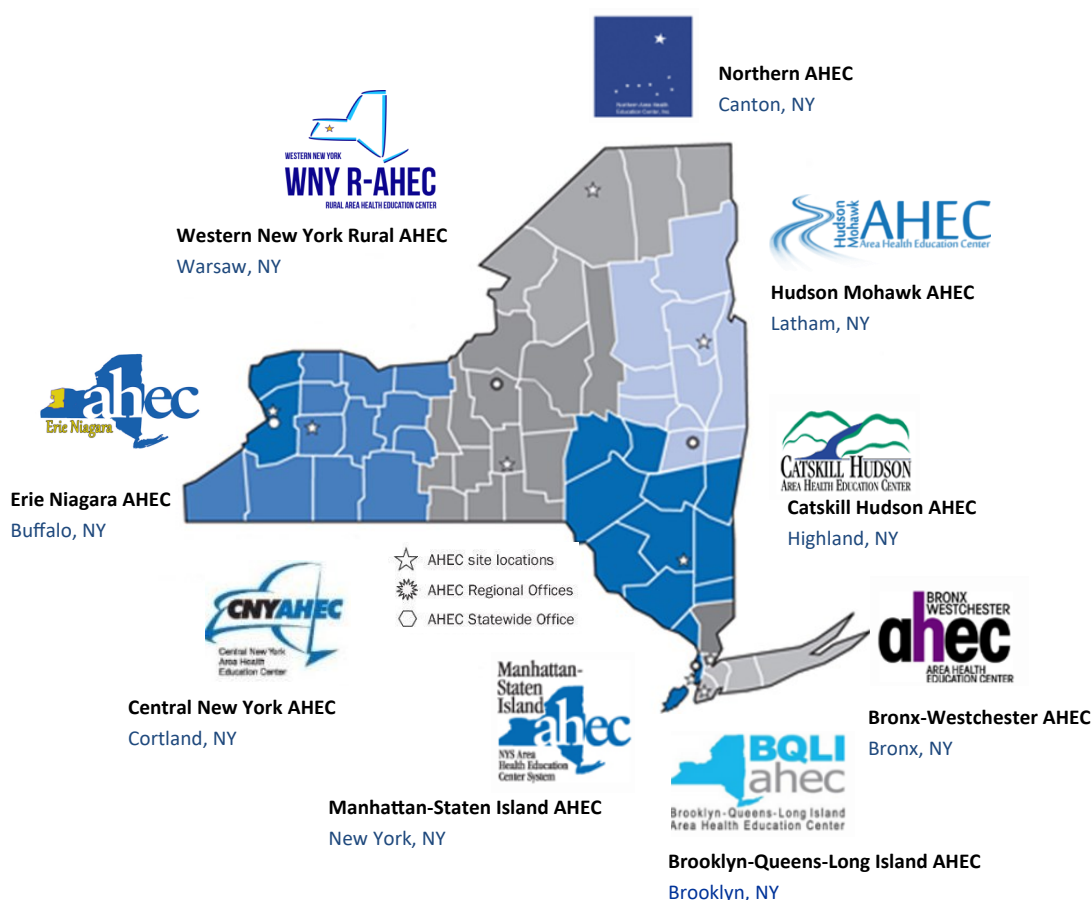




# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

## 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

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[www.nysahec.org](http://www.nysahec.org)

# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

### 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>

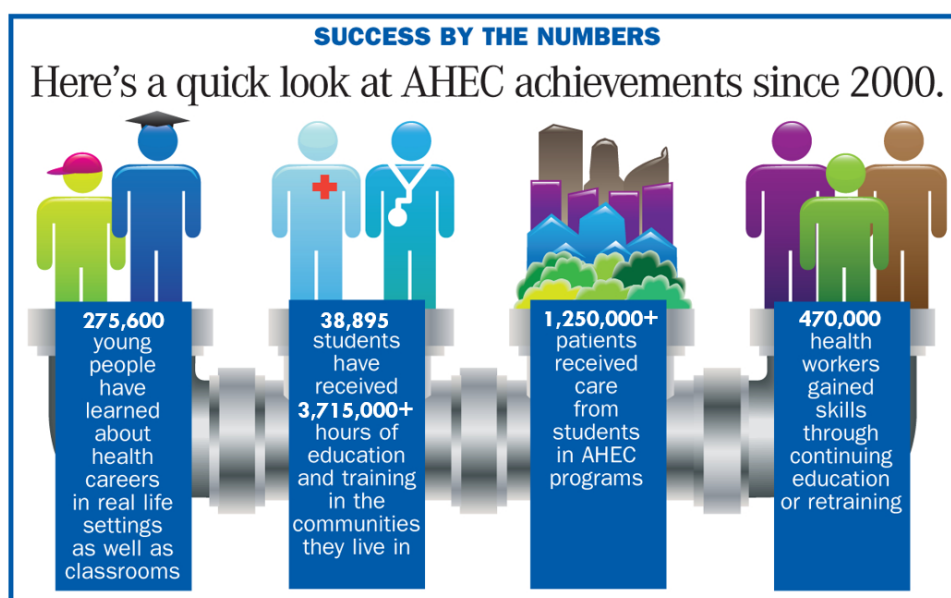
[2] New York State Department of Labor: Long Term Industry Employment Projections, 2012-2022. [Chart]. Retrieved from <https://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/lspjproj.shtm>

# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

### Overview: Outreach 2021-2022

- ◆ Roughly 2,400 high school students and approximately 750 college students participated in health careers programs.
- ◆ Nearly 245 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 65,000 health professionals received continuing education training via 80 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:*

- 90+** academic institutions;
- 160+** elementary/secondary schools;
- 350** hospitals/health care systems/clinics/networks; and nearly
- 150+** community and professional organizations/government agencies/businesses.

### Alignment with NYS Department of Health Priorities

- ◆ The New York State AHEC System continues to be 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, 2021 through June 30, 2022

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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 roughly 50% underrepresented/disadvantaged minority students or 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. During the current year, roughly 90% of rotations and internships coordinated were in a MUC, rural area, or team-based setting.
  - **Objective 3: Continuing Education – Goal Obtained.** During this program year, roughly 65,000 current health professionals participated in continuing education activities facilitated by NYS AHEC Centers, with approximately 75% 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 largely 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, 2021 through June 30, 2022

### NYS AHEC Scholars Program

The NYS AHEC System continued to implement and expand its AHEC Scholars Program. This year marked the fourth year of implementation, and ushered in a new cohort of AHEC Scholar participants for the two-year longitudinal interdisciplinary program. Due to ongoing challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, AHEC centers utilized a wide variety of virtual experiential learning opportunities, thereby expanding flexibility regarding program structure and participant completion. Using the standardized student application via each center's website and strategic partners, over 225 student applications across the state have been received. A total of 75 returning Cohort 3 AHEC Scholar Students progressed into year 2, while 78 new students were accepted into the program for their first year as Cohort 4.

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 diligently worked through the didactic portion of the program via online modules developed by the NYS AHEC Statewide Office. To date, roughly 2,600 hours of didactic training have been completed by Cohort 3 and by Cohort 4. Students have also been participating in virtual experiential learning opportunities addressing medically underserved and rural areas. To date, over 1,000 cumulative hours of experiential training have been completed by Cohorts 3 and 4.



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

- ♦ *"My time [with the] AHEC Scholars program has been impactful... my interest in public health grew massively. I enjoyed learning the different skillsets...I am glad to have been able to participate in this program."*
- ♦ *"The content given in this program is extremely valuable and applicable...there is a lot of emphasis on interprofessional care and social determinants of health, and I know I have learned a lot..."*
- ♦ *"AHEC Scholars was a wonderful program that helped integrate me into the social work field while highlighting the importance of trauma informed care, human rights perspectives, person centered care, and interprofessional collaboration. Understanding these topics is essential to the well-being and care of individuals, families and communities and AHEC Scholars helped me to achieve confidence and competency in these areas. I recommend AHEC Scholars to any student that is looking for a fun, hands-on experience within the community that will better their practice in the field and allow them to be a part of the changes and improvements that are necessary in the healthcare field."*

### 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, 2021 through June 30, 2022

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### 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

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#### Multi-Session Programs

- ◆ Bronx-Westchester AHEC (BW AHEC), Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC), Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC (MSI AHEC), and Western New York Rural AHEC (RAHEC) hosted **Summer Programs** for over 55 high school and college students with hands-on exposure to local health careers.
- ◆ Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC) provided **internships and job shadows opportunities** for high students interested in healthcare careers.
- ◆ Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) and Erie Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC) hosted **career exposure pathway programs** for 30 students.
- ◆ BQLI AHEC also worked closely with SUNY Downstate STEP to implement a series of youth career exposure activities for students interested in pursuing health and other STEM related careers.

#### Single Session Programs

- ◆ Approximately **2,300** 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 400 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.



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### 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.
- ◆ In September, Central New York AHEC (CNY AHEC) presented the Dr. Wolff MD Scholarship to Celine P. 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. Celine has participated in numerous MASH Camps and HealthQuest activities, and will be pursuing a 4+4 BS/MD Program at SUNY Upstate Medical University.



# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

### Pipeline Program Spotlight– PATCH



Erie-Niagara AHEC, in collaboration with HOPE Buffalo, supported the implementation of the Providers and Teens Communicating for Health (PATCH) Program.

The program aims to ensure that youth voices are both heard and incorporated when addressing important adolescent health conversations. By increasing awareness of and overall accessibility to health opportunities, ENAHEC strives to promote teens as the drivers of change for both their personal health as well as that of their community. Youth educators lead others in health engagement workshops, and foster the sharing experiences, concerns, and insights for health improvement.

When asked to provide comments regarding their experience, students said:

- ♦ “I know more about how to take care of myself and I might major in Public Health now.”
- ♦ “It’s given the help I need to help others advocate for themselves ...”
- ♦ “What I like the most about PATCH is how informative the program is; I love how I am able to learn something new with every Enrichment meeting I attend.”
- ♦ “I discovered that I am interested in 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.”*  
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, 2021 through June 30, 2022

### 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 supported community-based experiential and/or clinical learning for the following students:
    - \* **100 Medical Students**
    - \* **5 Public Health Students**
    - \* **7 Social Work Students**
    - \* **5 Physician Assistant Students**
    - \* **17 Nursing Students**
    - \* **11 Pharmacy Student**
    - \* **90+ Other Health Professional Students** (including Nutrition, Medical Assistant, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, 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, HFM Prevention council and public health placements at both Erie Niagara AHEC and Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC.
  - ♦ During the summer of 2021, 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. Over 20 medical/health professions students and visiting providers received **housing support**.
  - ♦ Northern AHEC and Central New York (CNY AHEC) continued their **Rural Immersion Programs**. Twelve 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.
- 
- ### Ongoing Summer Programs
- ♦ BQLI AHEC, BW AHEC and MSI AHEC are hosting virtual and hybrid versions of their **Summer Health Internship Program (SHIP)**.
  - ♦ 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, 2021 through June 30, 2022

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### Health Professions Student Program Spotlight– Migrant Project

As part of a small funding award from Southeast Arizona AHEC, Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC worked to support increased access to healthcare services for newly arrived migrant individuals in New York City. Over the course of the grant period, BQLI staff, interns, and AHEC Scholars students connected with approximately 80 new migrant individuals monthly to inform them about COVID-19 vaccination sites and the availability of primary care services, with the most commonly requested resources including health care, employment, and legal assistance. For instance, interns were able to refer a pregnant woman who needed prenatal care to a city hospital and also referred a young man to a Spanish-speaking law firm to obtain a work permit. BQLI AHEC interns also developed a listing of new resources for referrals, developed new partnerships for potential program expansion and assisted in the development of bilingual multicultural materials on vaccine education and primary care access.



#### 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.

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### 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, 2021 through June 30, 2022

### 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 their Emergency Responder Leadership Academy, with topics addressing agency advocacy, governance, and strategic planning. Additionally, Hudson Mohawk (HMAHEC) hosted a Leaders In EMS training, focusing on agency development and sustainment.
- Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC) continued to add **InService Solutions** (ISS) clients. Over 62,000 individuals completed training across 15+ modules. Northern AHEC (NAHEC) also utilized ISS to offer local partners ongoing CE programs. Nearly 2,400 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, Health Literacy, and Social Determinants Awareness Trainings** to roughly 70 individuals, including current and aspiring healthcare professionals and the general community. ENAHEC also provided **training on maternal health, implicit bias, and social change** for roughly 130 health professionals and community members.
- WNY Rural AHEC continued their Care

Coordinator Training series for roughly 20 participants this year. The training provides individuals with essential knowledge needed to address a number of health concerns in the community, with topics addressing: cultural competency, interdisciplinary teams, person-centered care, quality improvement, health information technology and documentation, and professional and ethics.

- Several centers (CH AHEC, CNY AHEC, HM AHEC, and Northern AHEC) collaborated together with CEI to offer a series of trainings focused on related to trans- and gender non-conforming patient care provision, with the aim of increasing affirmative care practices.



### Selected Continuing Education/Faculty Development Programs

Continuing Education Topic	No. of Programs	No. of Participants
Cultural Competency / Health Disparities / Cultural Competency	13	175
Professional Development	4	97
LGBTQ Patient Care	5	200
Maternal/Family Health	3	70
Care Coordination/Care Transitions	2	19
Behavioral Health / Provider Resiliency	7	130

# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

### Program Spotlight– Mental Health First Aid Training

Western New York Rural AHEC is part of a national initiative to increase Mental Health Literacy. Having training multiple staff members in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), R-AHEC is expanding this valuable training, made available in part by the Margaret Wendt Foundation and Wyoming Foundation, to individuals in the following counties: Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Wyoming, Genesee, Orleans, Monroe, Livingston, Steuben, Yates, Ontario, and Wayne.



This groundbreaking skills-based course gives people the tools to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges for both youth and adults. MHFA teaches participants to recognize the signs and symptoms that suggest a potential mental health or substance use challenge, how to listen nonjudgmentally and give reassurance to a person who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge, and how to refer a person to appropriate support and services.

MHFA was created in Australia in 2000. In 2008, MHFA was brought to the United States, with the goal of making MHFA Training as common as CPR. A 2018 study of the Adult and Youth Mental Health USA curricula concluded that the program:

- ◆ Reduced stigma around mental illness.
- ◆ Increased participant knowledge about mental health.
- ◆ Raised participant confidence to use the MHFA 5-step action plan (ALGEE).

### 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.

## Get trained in **Mental Health First Aid**



**Sara Longhini**  
SLonghini@R-AHEC.org



**Krysta Smith**  
KSmith@R-AHEC.org

**Scan to contact us about  
Grant Funded Training!**



**Mental Health FIRST AID**  
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

[https://bit.ly/R-AHEC\\_MHFA](https://bit.ly/R-AHEC_MHFA)

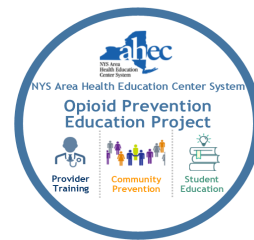


# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

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

In September 2021, the NYS AHEC System received additional supplemental funding from the federal Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to continuing supporting 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:

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

#### ♦ Objective 1: Community Engagement and Outreach

Centers have coordinated nearly 30 community events, with several upcoming events planned. Reaching over 550 participants, these events have included free Narcan Trainings, structured webinar series, and presentations on the impact of opioid and vulnerable populations such as older adults. As a result of the ongoing 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 120 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 2,500 participants.

	Obj. 1: Community Events	Obj. 2: Tabling Events
TOTAL	29 Events: 555 Participants	124 Events 2,504 Students

### NEW: Supplemental Funding Activities: Simulation Education Training

At the end of August 2021, the NYS AHEC System received an award notification for supplemental funds totaling \$500,000 to help expand the use of experiential learning and innovative simulation-based technology. This supplemental funding was valid for one year only. A total of six AHEC Centers agreed to participate: Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC, Catskill Hudson AHEC, Central NY AHEC, Erie Niagara AHEC, Hudson Mohawk AHEC, and Northern AHEC.

As part of their participation in this project, the AHEC Centers and the Statewide Office were responsible for (a) identifying and supporting current AHEC Scholars in the participation of simulation based learning, inclusive of simulated patient scenarios and group debrief meetings, (b) coordinating simulation and scenario based training addressing health professions career exposure for high school students, and (c) coordinating simulation and scenario based training addressing COVID-19 topics (i.e. contact tracing, vaccine education, and vaccine hesitancy) via for health professional students (i.e. college matriculated students) and/or current health professionals.

To date, over 25 AHEC Scholars are progressing through their patient scenario based learning, roughly 200 high school students have participated in hands-on based learning, and over 220 health professions students and professionals have participated in COVID-19 continuing education.



# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

### 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 \$5,000 from Southeast Arizona AHEC to assist with COVID education and follow up for newly arrived migrants. BQLI AHEC also received \$10,000 from SUNY Downstate Science Technology and Engineering Program (STEP) to support pipeline and career exposure activities.
- ◆ Erie Niagara AHEC continued their contract with HOPE Buffalo for the ongoing provision of three pipeline programs: PATCH (Providers and Teens Communicating for Health), the Youth Leadership Team (YLT), and Near-to-Peer programs. Erie Niagara AHEC also applied for and received funding to help address maternal health disparities.



### Objective #6:

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



Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, SUNY Orange Newburg Campus, October 25, 2021.

# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

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### 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

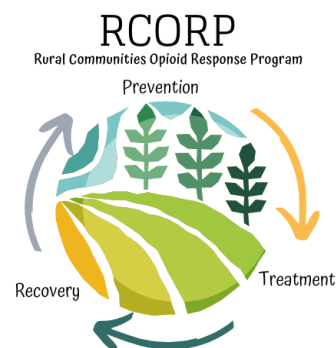


The NYS AHEC System received funding from the Department of Labor, Women's Bureau to directly address the employment needs of women affected by the opioid crisis and combat its impact in some of the hardest hit areas of the country. This multi-year program convenes community partners with experience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



#### Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) III

The NYS AHEC System received funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration to for the third round of RCORP funding, designed 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) support comprehensive OUD screening, treatment, tracking, and recovery services; and (b) expand awareness and education focused on substance use prevention, community and family education, professional development, and provider/local community resources and services. Four AHEC Centers (Catskill Hudson AHEC, Central New York AHEC, Hudson Mohawk AHEC and Norther AHEC) will be collaborating with local service providers and prevention groups, including Catskill Addiction Coalition, Samadhi Recovery Community Outreach, Essex County Mental Health Services, Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Prevention Council, and Seaway Valley Prevention Council, to help support the initiatives of this program across five counties in NYS: Cortland, Fulton, Essex, St. Lawrence, and Ulster.

# Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

## July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

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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!!!**