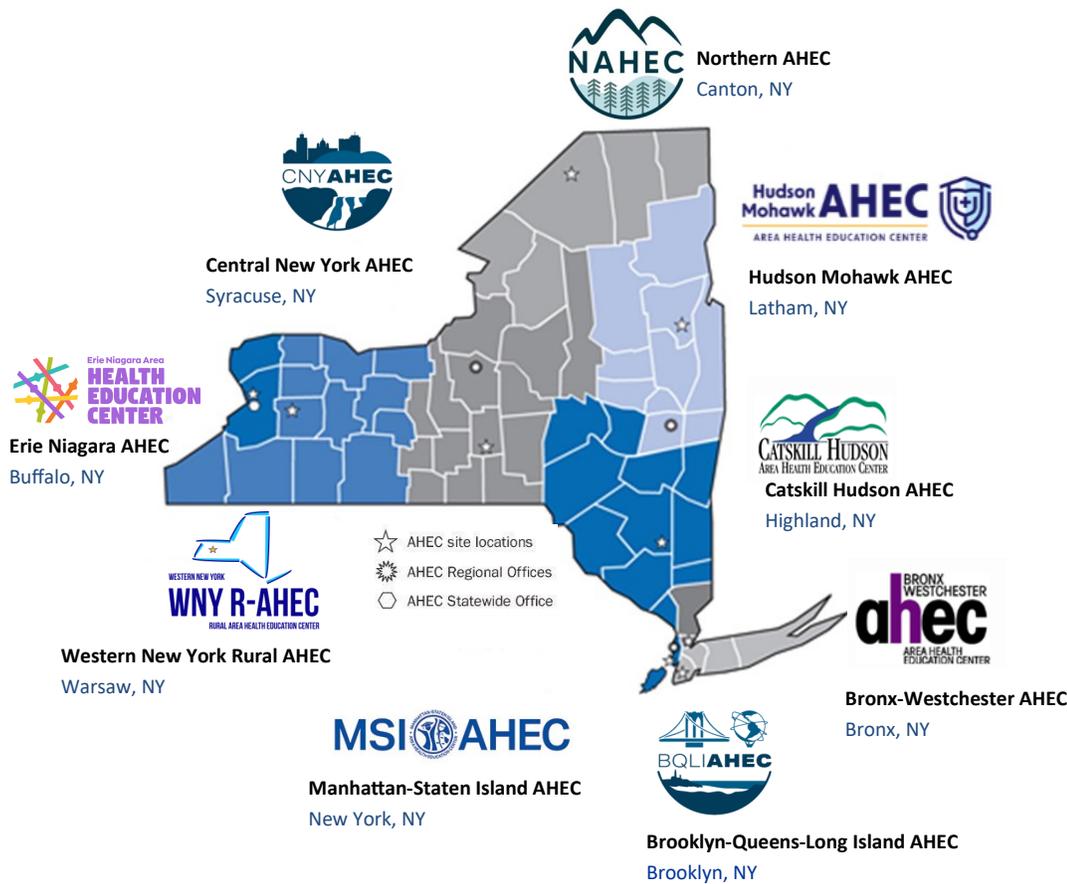


Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

NEW YORK STATE AHEC SYSTEM

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



Central Region Office at Upstate Medical University | NY Metropolitan Region Office at Institute for Family Health

Statewide Office at the University at Buffalo

2024-25 Year in Review

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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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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 2023 HRSA data, there are approximately 6.51 million New Yorkers identified as residing in locales designated as "underserved" throughout New York's nearly 200 Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).^[1] It would require nearly 1,350 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% 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 2023 (June 2023). [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>

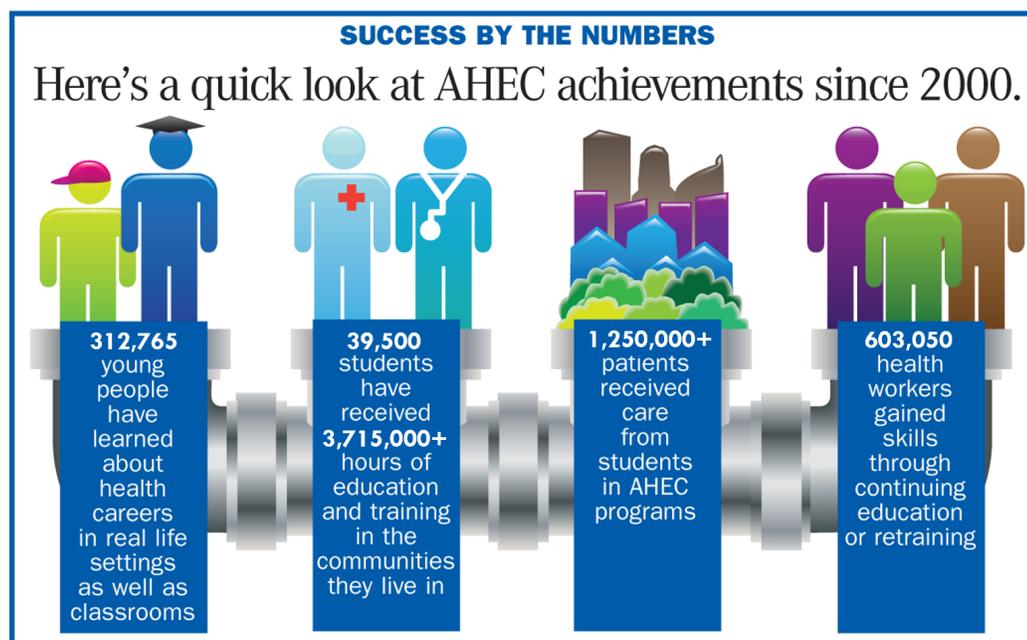
[2] New York State Department of Labor: Long Term Industry Employment Projections, 2020-2030. [Chart]. Retrieved from <https://dol.ny.gov/employment-projections>.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

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Overview: Outreach 2024-2025

- ◆ Roughly 13,360 high school and students participated in a health education opportunity and/or a careers pathways program.
- ◆ Over 280 rotations were completed by medical, physician assistant, and other health professions students at community-based sites (e.g., community health centers, hospitals, clinics and private practices) with an emphasis on underserved communities.
- ◆ Approximately 33,950 health professionals received continuing education training via workshops, seminars, conferences and distance learning programs/series.



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 continues to be involved in 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:

- 89** academic institutions;
- 200+** elementary/secondary schools;
- 305** hospitals/health care systems/clinics/networks; and nearly
- 175** community and professional organizations/government agencies/businesses.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

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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

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 NYS AHEC 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 – Goal Obtained.** Health career pipeline activities and tools are being provided to students, with a target of those from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or underrepresented students. Underrepresented minorities in New York State make up approximately 31.1% of the state’s population. As such, the NYSAHEC system aims to recruit a similar or greater percentage of underrepresented minority and/or otherwise disadvantaged students to participate in their pipeline programs.
- **Objective 2 – Goal Obtained.** Over 280 rotations and internships were facilitated by the NYS AHEC System this year, with all placements located in a MUC, rural or primary care-based setting.
- **Objective 3 – Goal Obtained.** Roughly 34,000 health professionals received continuing education training this year alone. Additionally, all workshops, seminars, conferences and distance learning programs/series facilitated by the NYS AHEC System addressed a HRSA Core Topic Area.
- **Objective 4 – Goal Partially Obtained.** Participant retention and graduation have improved over the last few years, with current enrollee numbers near the 15 participants/center deliverable outlined by HRSA. In reviewing program impact, results from the pre- and post-test evaluations demonstrate that participants improved their scores on both Cultural Competency scale and the retrospective evaluation items. Overall, reviews of their 2-year participation in the program by the Cohort 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 Scholars have been positive, as shown via their qualitative comments and feedback. Similarly, the longitudinal follow up of AHEC Scholar graduates indicate that a majority of students are either employed in a health-related field or pursuing additional health profession training and education in a medically underserved or rural area. Additionally, the knowledge and skills gained as a result of participation in the program has been both applicable and beneficial in their professional settings.
- **Objective 5 – Goal Obtained.** Centers are identifying and advertising vacancies in MUCs via their websites and social media accounts and using established partnership networks to disseminate this information to graduating health professional cohorts.
- **Objective 6 – Goal Obtained.** Centers are successfully continuing to develop and/or maintain strategic partnerships.
- **Objective 7 – 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

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NYS AHEC Scholars Program

The NYS AHEC System continued to implement and expand its AHEC Scholars Program. This year marked the sixth year of implementation, and ushered in a new cohort of AHEC Scholar participants for the two-year longitudinal interdisciplinary program. AHEC centers utilized a wide variety of 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 600 student applications across the state have been received. Over 70 returning Cohort 6 AHEC Scholar Students progressed into year 2, while 120 new students were accepted into the program for their first year as Cohort 7.

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, nearly 4,000 hours of didactic training have been completed by Cohorts 6 and 7. Students have also been participating in experiential learning opportunities addressing medically underserved and rural areas. To date, over 2,400 cumulative hours of experiential training have been completed by Cohorts 6 and 7.



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.



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

- ◆ *“The AHEC Scholars Program provides a wealth of knowledge and resources to learn more about healthcare and improving care for those who have significant barriers to adequate care.”*
- ◆ *“The AHEC Scholars Program equipped me with the tools and knowledge to provide better care to patients and to be a better member of an interprofessional team.”*
- ◆ *“The Scholars Program is an excellent program that is thoughtfully designed to train and equip future community leaders. The focus on interprofessionalism is something I sincerely appreciated....”*
- ◆ *“AHEC Scholars allows you to be integrated into your community and see healthcare from a birds eye view, allowing you to gain knowledge in fields/sectors you may not be directly involved in but knowing that they exist and how you can use the resources from these fields/sectors. AHEC perfectly complemented our medical school curriculum and filled in the gaps that need to be filled in order to become a culturally competent physician.”*

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

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 Pathway Programs

Multi-Session Programs

- ◆ Bronx-Westchester AHEC (BW AHEC), Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC), and Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC (MSI AHEC) hosted **Summer Programs** for over 45 high school and college students with hands-on exposure to local health careers.
- ◆ Erie Niagara (ENAHEC) and Western NY Rural (RAHEC) provided **internship opportunities** for roughly 30 high students interested in healthcare careers.
- ◆ Erie Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC) and RAHEC also continued their participation with the **SEPA project**, encouraging students to learn about bioinformatics through local research activities.
- ◆ EN AHEC worked closely with high school students in their PATCH (Providers and Teens Communicating for Health) Program to support increase advocacy and youth engagement in health issues.

Single Session Programs

- ◆ Approximately **8,500** 9-12 and college students attended **single session awareness programs** via career fairs, and in-classroom or remote presentations. These single session events increase awareness and exposure to health-related careers through lectures, hands-on activities, and demonstrations.



Scholarships Across the System

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

- ◆ This year, Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HM AHEC) awarded eleven \$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. Awardees were residents of HM AHEC's 10 county catchment area.
- ◆ Western New York Rural AHEC awarded eleven participants with scholarships to support their future healthcare professional goals. All awardees were graduating from high schools within WNY R-AHEC's catchment area and attending programs also in the R-AHEC catchment area.
- ◆ Similarly, Northern AHEC, Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC, and Central New York AHEC also awarded scholarships to students pursuing health careers as part of the Bruce C. Potter Memorial Scholarship, Hazel Sanderson, EdD, RN Health Career Scholarship, and the L. Thomas Wolff, MD Scholarship programs.



Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

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Program Spotlight– Simulation Learning Activities

To better engage students in healthcare career pursuit and provide an added dimension of direct application of learned materials, several centers across the NYS AHEC System utilize virtual-reality simulations and/or scenarios as part of their pathway programming. These experiences immerse students in realistic healthcare scenarios, promoting critical thinking, prompting atypical questions, and supporting overall understanding and interest in specific subject matter.

Virtuality reality scenarios across the NYS AHEC System has ranged from clinical practices involving both nursing and medical applications to in the field emergency care situations and more generalized behavioral health concerns. health concerns and community issues

For instance, students have been guided through scenarios involving CPR, medication administration, and mental health awareness care for individuals with dementia. Overall, the use of virtual reality has been positively received, with both participants and observers citing increased clarity regarding the complexity and precision required in healthcare roles. Moreover, it is our aim that these immersive experience will leave a lasting impression and enhanced participants' readiness to respond to similar real-life situations.



“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, 2024 through June 30, 2025

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:
 - * **44 Medical Students**
 - * **37 Doula/Maternal Health Students**
 - * **14 Veterinary Students**
 - * **28 Social Work Students**
 - * **33 Public Health Students**
 - * **36 Physician Assistant Students**
 - * **8 Nurse Practitioner Students**
 - * **1 Physical Therapy Student**
 - * **6 Pharmacy Students**
 - * **12 Registered Nursing Students**
 - * **60 Other Health Professional Students** (including behavioral health and other Reported disciplines)
- ◆ **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), placements at Wyoming County Community Health System, veterinary placements at Perry Veterinary Clinic, and placements at both Erie Niagara AHEC and Northern AHEC.
- ◆ During the summer, Manhattan Staten Island AHEC provided 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.
- ◆ 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 an additional 8 visiting providers received **housing support**.

- ◆ Northern AHEC continued their **Rural Immersion Programs**. Six students spent a week or more shadowing providers at the Community Health Center of the North Country and community agencies while exploring rural community life and identifying public health issues, including health care access.
- ◆ 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, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Program Spotlight– Doula Shadowing and Training in WNY

As part of their Maternal Health Program, Erie Niagara AHEC is working to expand education and empowerment for birthing individuals, with a particular emphasis on address maternal health obstacles for individuals within the Buffalo-Niagara Region. One component of this initiative is training Doulas and supporting them as they pursue Medicaid provider eligibility. While not a medical provider, Doulas can serve as a key presence in one’s birthing journey. Acting as a coach and advocate, Doulas provide soon-to-be mothers with emotional, social, and physical support needed during pregnancy, labor, and postpartum. This program year, Erie Niagara graduated their third cohort of Doulas, training roughly 20 individuals and supporting shadowing opportunities for trainees at local facilities. Over the course of the full program over 50 Doulas were trained, with many trainees now Medicaid-certified or working toward certification helping additional families across the region receive the support they need. One trainee noted that:



- ◆ *“Rarely has there been a program providing the training AND resources for such a need. This area is well overdue for what AHEC is providing ... We NEED this! I’m so grateful and proud to be a part of such an impactful movement. I’m excited to educate mother’s about the birth world and look forward to serving my community!”*



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, 2024 through June 30, 2025

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

- ◆ Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC) continued to add **InService Solutions (ISS)** clients. Over 28,000 individuals completed training across 15+ modules with topics including **training on corporate compliance, patient rights and safety, and workplace violence** to stay current on required regulations and certifications.
- ◆ WNY Rural AHEC continued their **Mental Health First Aid Trainings** for roughly 430 participants this year. The training provides individuals with the tools to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges. 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. ‘



- ◆ Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC), Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC), Central New York AHEC (CNY AHEC), Erie Niagara AHEC, Hudson Mohawk AHEC *(HM AHEC), Northern AHEC (NAHEC), and WNY Rural AHEC (RAHEC) hosted multiple **Cultural Competency, Health Literacy, and Social Determinants Awareness Trainings** to roughly 1,080 individuals, including current and aspiring healthcare professionals and the general community.
- ◆ Several centers hosted sessions **addressing provider well-being, burnout, and workforce retention**. Nearly 300 health professionals and staff members attended.
- ◆ Several centers hosted sessions on maternal and child care issues, including substance use, doula education, and nutrition. Nearly 465 individuals were trained across all events.
- ◆ HM AHEC and NAHEC hosted events for first responders and other EMS personnel on trauma informed care and other related emergency care services. Over 100 individuals were trained across the sessions.



Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

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Program Spotlight– Health Professions Seminar

This past June, Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (CHAHEC) hosted their annual Health Professions Seminar. Titled “Reducing Health Disparities for Children and Families in the Hudson Valley,” the program was held in partnership with the Desmond Center for Community Engagement and Wellness at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY.



The event was well attended, with attendees spanning a wide variety of health professional fields including social work, nursing, midwifery, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. The event highlighted several critical health concerns across maternal care, pediatrics, and families, with sessions including: “Exploring the History and Modern-day Practice of United States Midwifery as a Source of Providing Maternal Healthcare,” “The Interconnectedness of Person-Centered Care, the Social Determinants of Health and the Impact on Day to Day Client Care,” and “Reducing Health Disparities for Children and Families in the Hudson Valley: Addressing and Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).” Participants also had the opportunity to network and connect with local organizations such as the Maternal Infant Services Network.

This annual event continues to have positive feedback from attendees, providing valuable education on a wide range of health issues facing residents both in the area and across the state. A past participant stated:

- ◆ *“It was an absolute pleasure to participate in the Health Professions Seminar...Without a doubt, Catskill Hudson AHEC carries out their mission with a skillful grace in delivering professional development opportunities to providers on topics related to and including underserved communities. As a result, professionals are better equipped with the tools and knowledge to serve various populations.”*



HEALTH PROFESSIONS SEMINAR
Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center



Objective #3:

Enhance the local health care workforce through continuing education programs for medical and health care professionals, development and support for career ladders and promotion of programs that support re-entry workers.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

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ONGOING: Supplemental Funding Activities: Opioid Prevention Education Project

The NYS AHEC System continued to offer community-based programming to address HRSA’s priority focus on the opioid epidemic. Focused on expanding training related to opioid diagnosis, use, treatment and prevention, programming targeted current health professionals, future practitioners (i.e. students), and the general population.



Project Outcome to Date:

All nine AHEC centers (Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC, Bronx-Westchester, 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 40 community events, with several upcoming events planned. Reaching over 2,800 participants, these events have included free Narcan Trainings, structured webinar series, and presentations on the impact of opioid and vulnerable populations. Center were have utilized mixed formats for community events, including in-person events and online informational webinars and trainings.

◆ *Objective 2: High School and College Student Awareness*

Centers have completed nearly 120 student tabling and informational events. Through in-person presentations as well as virtual activities, such as virtual health fairs, remote presentations, targeted social media posts, or presenting to marginalized students , participating AHEC Centers have been able to reach nearly 3,600 participants.

| | Obj. 1: Community Events | Obj. 2: Youth Events |
|-------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| TOTAL | 36 Events: 2,829 Participants | 118 Events 3,550 Students |

ONGOING: Supplemental Funding Activities: Simulation Education Training

Expanding on prior year offerings, the NYS AHEC System continued to facilitate programming focused on the use of experiential learning and innovative simulation-based technology. A total of six AHEC Centers agreed to participate this year: Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC, Catskill Hudson AHEC, Central NY AHEC, Hudson Mohawk AHEC, Northern AHEC, and Western New York Rural 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 for health professional students (i.e. college matriculated students) and/or current health professionals.

To date, several AHEC Scholars have or are scheduled to work through patient scenario based learning, roughly 1,000 high school students have participated in hands-on based learning, and over 520 health professions students and professionals have participated in simulation or scenario-based continuing education.

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Leveraging NYS Investment (Selected Funding)



- ◆ *Adult Rural Mental and Behavioral Health (NYSARH)*: Central NY AHEC, Erie-Niagara AHEC, Hudson-Mohawk, Northern AHEC and WNY Rural AHEC are subrecipients of a Mother Cabrini Health Foundation award with the NYS Association of Rural Health to support mental health for older adults in rural communities.
- ◆ *Career Pathways Program (1115 Waiver)*: Central NY AHEC, Erie-Niagara AHEC, and WNY Rural AHEC have all been contracted through Finger Lakes Performing Provider System to support the recruitment and trainee case management for the Career Pathways Training portion of the Medicaid 1115 Waiver.
- ◆ Catskill Hudson AHEC received \$5,000 from the Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley to support AHEC Scholar program stipends.
- ◆ Erie Niagara AHEC received an Advancing Healthcare Careers: Future Docs award from the National AHEC Organization. Erie Niagara AHEC also received funding from the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York to include education on gun violence and prevention as part of their Birth Equity Project.
- ◆ Hudson Mohawk AHEC received approximately \$2,000 from the Adirondack Trust Community Fund to support MASH Camps in the area. Hudson Mohawk also received donations to support their Health Career Scholarship fund and pipeline initiatives.
- ◆ NAHEC was provided a donation of \$1,250 from Stewarts Shops and was awarded a \$7,000 grant from Adirondack Foundation to implement summer career pathways programs. Northern AHEC also received a donation of \$3,000 from North Country Credit Union to support their future mentorship programs.
- ◆ Northern AHEC further received a donation of \$3,000 from the Kinney Drugs Foundation to support student stipends and received an additional donation of \$2,000 from the North Country Community Foundation to support simulation learning opportunities.
- ◆ WNY Rural AHEC was awarded over \$250,000 for a 5 year collaboration to support Health Career Exploration through the UW of Greater Rochester and Finger Lakes. WNY Rural AHEC also received a \$2,000 sponsorship from the Greater Rochester Health Foundation for their 25th anniversary celebration.

Objective #6:

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

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments

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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)]; **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**.

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!!!