

**Testimony**  
**Joint Legislative Public Hearing**  
**2014-2015 Budget**  
**Health/Medicaid** **February 3, 2014**  
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**AHECs**



**Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC**  
 Brooklyn, NY [www.bqliahec.org](http://www.bqliahec.org)



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**Central New York AHEC**  
 Cortland, NY [www.cnyahec.org](http://www.cnyahec.org)



**Erie Niagara AHEC**  
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**Hudson Mohawk AHEC**  
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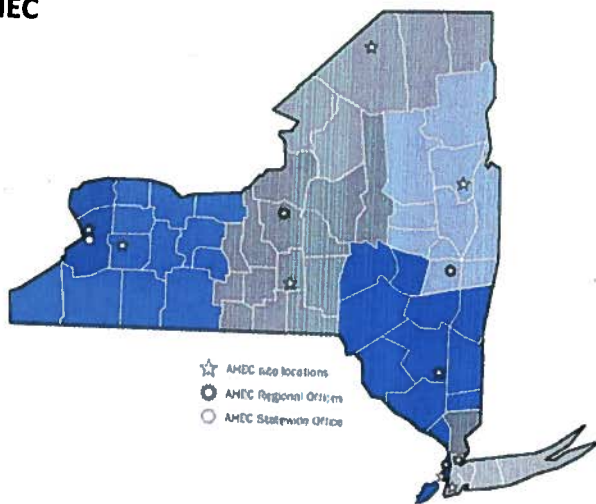
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**Northern AHEC**  
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**Western New York Rural AHEC**  
 Warsaw, NY [www.r-ahec.org](http://www.r-ahec.org)



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Statewide Office**

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**Regional Offices**

Central/Upstate Medical University  
 Eastern/Albany Medical College  
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My name is Mary Sienkiewicz and I am Director of the New York State Area Health Education Center System, commonly referred to as AHEC. While I am here alone before you today, I could certainly have a more compelling presentation were I to have with me the more than 26,000 middle, high school and college students and health professionals who participated in AHEC programs last year.

I am representing these students and health professionals as well as our nine centers, three regional offices and the Statewide Office that work with students from pipeline to practice. The New York State AHEC System is focused on recruiting and training the next generation of health professionals and retaining current providers to work in underserved communities. Our mission is to ensure that we have enough doctors, dentists, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, social workers and other primary care providers in private practices, health clinics and hospitals in high need rural and urban areas. We strive to make sure the health workforce reflects the diversity of our state. Today I would like to highlight three stories that demonstrate our impact on the health workforce pipeline as we recruit, train/retain and retrain health professionals.

**Recruit:** At the beginning of the pipeline, we work with students in middle school, high school and college. Last year, the New York State AHEC System delivered health career exploration opportunities to nearly 12,000 students. One such student, Ariana Aquino came to Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC as a student at Washington Irving High School. Over the next several years, she participated in MSI AHEC programs including Summer Health Internship, Collegiate Health Service Corps and Health Career Internship. Each placement in a health or community agency and mentoring by health professionals deepened Ariana's desire to work in an underserved area and allowed her to focus on health challenges in her Washington Heights community. Her AHEC programs included long-term placements at Bellevue Hospital, William F. Ryan Community Health Network and the Multiple Sclerosis Society's New York Chapter and national headquarters. Ariana recently graduated from City College and is applying to physician assistant programs. Once trained, she plans to practice in Washington Heights. As you can see, we track our students and know that AHEC participants attend college (at least one semester) at rates that exceed state and national averages.

**Train/Retain:** During their education and again once training is completed, AHECs connect health professionals to areas that need them most. Rural Ellenville New York has a brand new physician in Dr. Kristina Ursitti. As a family medicine resident stationed in this medically underserved community, she was linked with the Catskill Hudson AHEC's HealthMatch, a community-based recruitment and retention program. HealthMatch was created with a state HEAL 9 grant and has since empowered a local council of health care, business and government leaders to raise local funds to recruit providers. HealthMatch and its partners provided Dr. Ursitti with down payment assistance to purchase a home in this area where she has pledged to practice for at least five years. HealthMatch is a great example of an AHEC spearheading a community effort to improve access to primary care.

**Retrain:** As anyone working in health care will tell you, training never ends. There are always new skills to learn, theories to test and of course new technology. Last year, the New York State AHEC System trained almost 11,000 providers at 400 continuing education sessions on topics such as health information technology and electronic health records, nurse leadership, cultural competency, chronic disease management and mental health. These opportunities are especially important for nontraditional and displaced workers to develop job skills necessary to secure health care employment.

We were pleased to partner with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the Veterans/Service Members and Families Behavioral Health Initiative. Erie Niagara AHEC, Northern AHEC, Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC and the Metropolitan Region Office trained primary care providers to better recognize issues confronting military members and their families including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and pre/post deployment adjustment. This is

important since approximately half of veterans receive care from community-based providers rather than at the VA. As a result of AHEC trainings, providers demonstrated an increase in knowledge and intent to improve practice with regard to their care of service members, veterans and families.

AHEC programs are as diverse as the areas we serve and in addition to those mentioned above include:

- Western New York Rural AHEC's nationally recognized dedicated broadband program that enables Western and Central New York health facilities to engage in telemedicine/telehealth activities.
- Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC's partnership with LaGuardia Community College to train, certify and place pharmacy, EKG and phlebotomy techs.
- Central New York AHEC's Health Care Olympiad which utilizes experts from Upstate Medical University to judge student led research projects.
- Bronx-Westchester AHEC's Summer Health Internship Program is a six week placement for high school juniors and seniors or college students with an interest in health careers. Students work at health and community agencies in underserved communities and attend weekly didactic sessions.
- Hudson Mohawk's expertise in local health workforce needs assessment which includes a partnership with SUNY's Right Health Professionals for the Right Places (RP2) Initiative.

The New York AHEC System's strength is our partnerships, last year totaling over 1,300 K-12 schools, post-secondary institutions, including SUNY colleges and universities, health care employers and community organizations. These linkages connect the supply-side of the health workforce (secondary schools and academic institutions) with the demand-side of the workforce (health care employers and communities) and offer students opportunities to apply classroom learning at placements in underserved areas with health professionals. We are proud of our long-standing partnership with the Department of Health and that AHEC programs are aligned with Doctors Across New York, Medicaid Redesign, Health Workforce Retraining Initiative and Oral Health Workforce.

As successful as the New York State AHEC System is, I know that legislators must also consider the cost of continued support. Every state dollar invested in the New York State AHEC System leverages more than \$2 in federal, community and other funding. **As in past years, if there is no state allocation for the New York State AHEC System, we are not eligible for federal funds.**

For 2013-14, we were awarded just over two million dollars in state funding. This is a 15% decrease from the \$2.5 million approved by the Governor and Legislature in fiscal year 2010-11. As a result, all AHEC offices made staff cuts which hampered our ability to run programs at full capacity. I think you will all agree that the need for primary care professionals has only grown in the last three years, especially given the needs of our most vulnerable populations severely impacted by the economic downturn. At the same time, we all witnessed a health system transformation with the advent of the health insurance mandate and the launch of the New York State of Health Marketplace which is insuring many of our neighbors for the first time.

This year we must respectfully request a greater state investment than the \$2,077,000 currently included in the Governor's budget. Our 2014-15 budget request is \$2.5 million which restores previous cuts. We are keenly aware of the budgetary challenges facing our State. We are just as aware of the shortages of primary care providers in underserved communities and therefore must advocate for adequate funding to sustain our efforts to "grow our own" health workforce. Since health care is a major driver in local and regional economic development, our ability to recruit and help train health professionals is an integral part of a healthy local, regional and statewide economy.

Thank you for this opportunity and your continuing support. Attached to my testimony is the most recent annual report for the New York State AHEC System as submitted to Commissioner Shah.



# New York State AHEC System

## Report on Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments

July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

### **Making All of New York State a Campus:**

Nine AHECs (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 NY Rural AHEC), three regional offices (Central/Upstate Medical University, Eastern/Albany Medical College and NY Metropolitan/Institute for Family Health) and Statewide Office/University at Buffalo, comprise the NYS AHEC System and implement community-based strategies that cultivate a more diverse health workforce, assure each community has enough practitioners in the right categories, particularly primary care, and improve access to quality health care for all New Yorkers.

### **Recruitment, training and retention strategies:**

- Develop clinical training opportunities for future health professionals in medically underserved areas; recruit faculty committed to working with them.
- Encourage young people, especially from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds, to pursue health careers.
- Provide continuing education and professional support to practitioners, develop career ladders and promote workforce re-entry programs.

### **Objectives:**

- 1) Expand/support health professions training programs and community-based training experiences for medical students, health professions students and post-secondary students.
- 2) Increase quantity, quality and diversity of health professions faculty committed to working with medical, health professions and post-secondary students in medically underserved areas.
- 3) Enhance 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Assess and respond to the health workforce needs of New York State at the regional, county, and where possible, at the sub-county level.
- 6) Enhance statewide support for centers and regions and dynamic statewide needs-based Area Health Education Center System.

### **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."

### **Purpose/Need:**

New York State suffers from a shortage of health care professionals and lack of diversity in the health workforce. More than 4.4 million people reside in the state's primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), a figure that exceeds the primary care HPSA populations of 48 other states. The New York State Area AHEC System's recruitment, training and retention strategies are solutions to current health workforce shortages and New York State Department of Labor forecasts that health care jobs will grow at rates more than five times that of all other occupations.

# New York State AHEC System

## Report on Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments

### July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013



Note: These are round numbers. Please call the Statewide Office for detailed statistics.

#### **Making All of New York State a Campus:**

The NYS AHEC System, via nine AHECs, three regional offices and the Statewide Office, has established affiliation agreements, participating school agreements and/or collaborative partnerships with 109 academic institutions; 373 elementary/secondary schools; 473 hospitals/health care systems/clinics/networks; and 368 community and professional organizations/government agencies/businesses to support training, pipeline and/or continuing education programs.

#### **New York State AHEC National Leaders**

The NYS AHEC System Director completed a one-year term as National AHEC Organization (NAO) President and Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC Executive Director succeeded her as NAO President. Both provided leadership for the April 2013 NAO Conference "AHECs: Exploring New Roles, New Opportunities."

#### **Annual Report Highlights**

Quarterly reports submitted previously to the NYS Department of Health detailed activities and accomplishments, with quantitative and qualitative measures, consistent with the 2012-13 work plan objectives. The following pages include highlights and/or selected activities.

#### **Overview:**

→ Nearly 1,600 elementary and middle school students, almost 10,000 high school students and over 1,600 college students participated in health careers programs.

→ Over 2,100 medical, nursing and health professions students were trained by over 570 preceptors/faculty in AHEC-sponsored community-based sites (e.g., community health centers, hospitals, clinics and private practices), with an emphasis on underserved communities. Faculty were provided professional development opportunities to improve teaching skills.

→ Nearly 11,000 health professionals received continuing education training in 444 workshops, seminars, conferences, distance learning programs/series. Retraining initiatives provided health professions training for adult career-changers, displaced and re-entry workers.



# New York State AHEC System

## Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

### Evaluation/Outcomes

**Impact & Outcomes:** The NYS AHEC System continues to utilize a process-impact approach to evaluate organizational development and programs. This approach incorporates quantitative and qualitative measures to determine the extent to which the AHEC initiatives are implemented as planned and to measure health professions program and community experiences outcomes and impacts. Primary and secondary sources are used to track NYS AHEC System participants through the pipeline. Similar programs utilize standard core evaluation pre/post or post-only instruments developed/continued to evolve via an iterative participatory statewide process led by the Director of Evaluation and Data and Evaluation Committee with statewide representation. In addition to standard instruments, each center receives assistance as needed from the Statewide Office in development of program-specific evaluation tools.

**Intermediate:** The NYS AHEC System Statewide Office continued to implement longitudinal tracking to ascertain college enrollment rates for past AHEC middle/high school students, now age 18 and older. **The National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)** is partnered with more than 3,300 colleges (2 and 4 year colleges as well as universities), representing 93% of US college students. NSC provides details on college enrollment, degrees received, and often includes college major or concentration. Of the 6,070 past NYS AHEC System participants, between the ages of 18 – 29 years, for whom the NYS AHEC System had adequate identifiable information, the NSC indicated that **73.2%, (n= 4,444) of them attended at least some college**, with 35.7% enrolled at a 2-year college and 64.3% enrolled at a 4 year college. This rate of college enrollment exceeds that of the same age group in NYS (51%) and the US population (40%) (US Department of Education, 2007).

**Long term:** **Faces of AHEC** demonstrates the reach of NYS AHEC System programs by collecting and posting information to the Faces of AHEC website regarding participants' successes/future education/career plans/degrees/job acquisition, and the role that AHEC played. AHECs across New York State have success stories about young people working as nurses, technicians, social workers and doctors in underserved areas. In addition, previous AHEC program participants are precepting medical, nursing and health professions students and serving on boards of directors of the community-based AHECs. Adults whose jobs have been eliminated, or who need new skills to keep pace with advancing technologies, or are simply seeking a new career, have benefited from AHEC workforce training and retraining programs.

### Short term:

AHECs administered **pre/post evaluation instruments** to middle school, high school and college-age pipeline program students. The evaluation measured students' change in knowledge and awareness of health careers and assessed students' interest in pursuing health professions. Results indicate that students' knowledge and awareness of health careers significantly ( $p < .001$ ) improved by 12.4% following program participation. Also based on pre/post results, it can be inferred that students significantly increased their overall knowledge of health care careers following entrance into AHEC programming, and that students' view of health careers increased as a viable option as a result of their participation in AHEC pipeline programs.

# New York State AHEC System

## Report on Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments

- July/August/September 2012 marked the last quarter of a 3-year HRSA contract for SEARCH (Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health), in partnership with the Community Health Care Association of NYS, that provided 18 medical, PA and NP students with 120 hour clinical/community rotations in HPSAs, MUA/Ps and CHCs. **A majority of SEARCH students (85%) agreed “Based on this clinical experience, I am now considering working in a medically underserved area, rural area or community health center.”** Follow-up with 179 SEARCH students eligible for graduation through September 2012 found 105 students (58.7%) employed or in residencies; 41 students (39%) employed in a HPSA or MUA. Communication continues with students as they approach graduation.
- Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC), Northern AHEC (NAHEC), Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) and Central Region Office/Upstate Medical University **provided 156 medical/health professions students with housing support.** R-AHEC manages four facilities housing students in community rotations.
- NY Metropolitan Region AHECs provided seven NY College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) students a **six week Community Health Experience (CHE).** Students served in diverse community health settings and gained exposure to intercultural concerns and dynamics. **NYCOM’s evaluations indicate CHE students were more likely to specialize in primary care in medically underserved communities.**
- Rotations varied by site: NY Metropolitan Region Office/Institute for Family Health (IFH) **medical student rotations at Echo Free Clinic (Einstein) and NYC Free Clinic (NYU);** high school/college/health professions student service through Bronx Health Reach and social work placements at IFH Psychosocial Program. Also, R-AHEC’s **interdisciplinary geriatric program;** CHAHEC’s practice management lectures to SUNY New Paltz/NYCOM BS/DO students; Eastern Region Office/Albany Medical College (AMC) with Hudson Valley Community College **team-based training for nurses and nursing/PA/medical students** at AMC’s simulation center; Erie Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC) work with UB nursing students at CHC of Buffalo; and cultural competency trainings.
- **AHECs continue links with health professions programs to develop opportunities.** Central NY AHEC is investigating activities with BSN program at LeMoyne College/St. Joseph’s Hospital. Hudson Mohawk AHEC is part of a Utica College work group exploring an Accelerated BSN program. In 2013, NAHEC/Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization and Jefferson Community College continued expanding training programs including HIT Certificate and MSW.
- NYS AHEC System Nursing Director is also Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at University at Buffalo’s School of Nursing. She is focused on **increasing diversity by recruiting/training students from rural and underserved areas and initiated student placements in urban and rural areas by coordinating with R-AHEC and ENAHEC.**

### **Objective #1: Expand and support health professions training programs and community-based training experiences for medical students, health professions students and post-secondary students.**

More than 2,100 medical, nursing and other health professions students received over 500,000 hours of community-based training with 578 preceptors at 324 AHEC-sponsored community-based training sites.



## New York State AHEC System

### Report on Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments

- The NYS AHEC System Statewide Office/University at Buffalo and NY Metropolitan Region/Institute for Family Health (IFH) were leaders in **faculty development/grand rounds**: administration/management, behavioral health including functional assessment tool training, chronic disease, EHR/HIT, geriatrics, patient safety, atypical antipsychotics, arthritis, pulmonary hypertension, migrant health, identifying motor delay/weakness, women's health and genetics. IFH also provided six trainings for 15 social work interns and their preceptors. Faculty development was also provided at Central Region Office/Upstate Medical University (Upstate) and by Northern AHEC (NAHEC)/Central NY AHEC (CNYAHEC) CEO at Clarkson University.
- Catskill Hudson AHEC, Erie Niagara AHEC, Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC), Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC, all regional offices and the Statewide Office implemented **cultural competency, diversity and health literacy training** for 313 preceptors and practitioners. IFH held two trainings on racial disparities with 65 participants in conjunction with Bronx Health REACH/NY CEED.
- The Statewide Office, Eastern Region Office/Albany Medical College (AMC), Central Region/Upstate and HMAHEC disseminate **"The Teaching Physician"** newsletter to preceptors. Eastern Region/AMC preceptors receive access to AMC library and are annually awarded 20 AAFP CME hours. Central Region/Upstate preceptors are offered clinical faculty appointments, library privileges and free registration for the annual Family Medicine Teaching Days.
- NYS AHEC System Founding/Medical Director continued on the Accreditation Council for GME Residency Review Committee for Family Medicine. The Medical Director of the NY Metropolitan Region Office was appointed chair of the new Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at Mount Sinai School of Medicine.
- The NYS AHEC System Director of Nursing chairs the workforce subcommittee for Institute for Nursing. Other committee members represent Council for Deans and Directors of NYS Nursing programs, NYS Organization of Nurse Executives and NYS Board of Nursing. The Director led the Institute's effort to collect, analyze and report data on NYS faculty. **"NYS Nursing Schools and Faculty Report 2010-2011" was released in April 2012 and widely distributed to the NYS AHEC System, schools of nursing and other stakeholders.** The Director is collaborating on a second survey begun in May 2013 of Deans and Directors about NYS faculty. The Institute and the Nursing Director have initiated conversations with the NYS Education Department about collaborating on automating its annual educational programs survey.
- The University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing utilizes CNYAHEC EduCareCE.org to add course offerings for Doctorate of Nursing Consortium members.

#### **Objective #2: Increase quantity, quality and diversity of health professions faculty committed to working with medical, health professions and post-secondary students in medically underserved areas.**

Centers, regional offices and the Statewide Office provided 109 faculty development programs and other support activities for nearly 2,100 individuals to meet education needs of faculty and improve clinical quality of instruction. (These numbers are also reflected in Objective #3.)

## New York State AHEC System

### Report on Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments

- Western NY Rural (R-AHEC) and NY Metropolitan Region Office/ Institute for Family Health (IFH) managed HWRI awards. **R-AHEC completers: 520 Computer Skills for Health Care Professions, 17 LPN Training, 160 Nurse Leadership Seminar & Online Training, 4 Nurse Specialty: Masters & Advanced Certificate.** IFH provided 683 professionals with 98 computer/EHR workshops to improve care through meaningful use.
- R-AHEC worked with Buffalo RHIO (HEALTHeLINK) and P2 Collaborative in the Beacon Project focused on PCMH and meaningful use. R-AHEC filmed providers and patients for QI training materials and contracted with Central NY AHEC (CNYAHEC) for an on-line EduCareCE.org HIPPA course.
- Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) “Improving Healthcare to LGBT Individuals & Families” was held in May 2013 with 90% rating the summit positively for LGBT health care cultural competency. CHAHEC co-sponsored Bassett Healthcare’s **Critical Care Conference** in October 2012 with 88 participants and **Cardiovascular Teaching Day** in November 2012 with Twin County Cardiology, Columbia County Medical Society and Columbia Memorial Hospital serving 83 attendees.
- CNYAHEC’s InService Solutions included **13 health facilities and 4,558 individuals (6.3 hours each) who used on-line program to maintain certifications.** CNYAHEC and Central Region Office/ Upstate Medical University agreed to develop CME/CE hosted on EduCareCE.org. CNYAHEC closed out 2-year Appalachian Regional Commission grant for on-line CEU nurse refresher course. In 2012, 17 completed program; 2-year total was 36.
- Erie Niagara AHEC, Northern AHEC (NAHEC), Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC and IFH offered veterans behavioral health CE. In addition to 2 seminars for 15 providers, IFH revised its intake to identify veterans, a step to better care. NAHEC and Samaritan Medical Center led a May 2012 program for 65 providers. Evaluations indicate 70% agreed to “ask about family/close friend military status” and “assess veterans/soldiers for TBI;” and 89% agreed to ask a follow-up if concerned about PTSD.
- Started for a 2010-11 HRSA ARRA grant, there are 43 free CE programs (14 added in 2012-13) at [www.ahec.buffalo.edu/onlinetraining/](http://www.ahec.buffalo.edu/onlinetraining/) and [www.ahec.buffalo.edu/videos/FacDev.php](http://www.ahec.buffalo.edu/videos/FacDev.php)
- AHECs continued to facilitate Interprofessional Education (IPE). The March 2013 NYS AHEC System Advisory Board meeting focused on IPE and ways to build capacity for IPE workforce training/re-training.

**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.**

A total of 10,714 health professionals (medicine, nursing, allied health, pharmacy, social work, management, education and other disciplines), attended 444 programs.

Topics: Primary care, behavioral health, chronic disease, health disparities, geriatrics, nurse leadership, child/adolescent health, EHR/HIT and practice management. Programs offered via employer and academic collaborations using workplace-based seminars, conferences and distance learning.



# New York State AHEC System

## Report on Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments

- All AHECs conducted MASH Camp, Academy, Health Quest, Summer Club, Health Career Club, MedQuest and/or Exploring the Health Professions programs providing 585 middle and high school students with exposure to health careers and health professionals.
- Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC), Bronx-Westchester AHEC (BWAHEC), Erie Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC), Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC), Northern AHEC (NAHEC) and Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC (MSI AHEC) conducted **Scholar/Internship, mentoring and/or job shadow programs providing 228 high school/college students with 6 to 12 week introduction to health professions.**
- Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC), Central NY AHEC (CNYAHEC), HMAHEC, NAHEC and MSI AHEC used NAHEC's **MyHealthCareer® (MHC, [myhealthcareer.org](http://myhealthcareer.org))** to reach 3,921 middle/high/college students with career information/exploration; skill assessment; skills gap training; scholarships/tuition assistance and portfolio development.
- **MSI AHEC Community Health Service Corps (CHSC) seeks to increase underrepresented minorities in primary care and NHSC.** CHSC offers 20 CUNY juniors internships in underserved areas and training (PR, first aid, health disparities and cultural competency).
- **NY Metropolitan Region Office Health Corps** has 17 college students in health positions for 27,844 hours with 23 preceptors.
- R-AHEC **Honeycomb After School Program** provided 89 elementary/middle students with activities to improve math/science competencies and introduce health careers (**year 4 of 5, \$1.7 million, Advantage After School**).
- **AHEC/Health Careers Opportunity Program** collaborations for 115 students include BQLI AHEC/SUNY Downstate; MSI AHEC/North East Regional Alliance (Mt. Sinai/Columbia/NJ Medical School); ENAHEC & R-AHEC/D'Youville College; BWAHEC/Einstein.
- BQLI AHEC continued **nurse mentoring program** with Long Island University and Health and Hospital Corporation, with workshops, weekly mentoring and monthly networking for 25 students.
- CHAHEC conducted **Scrub Club for SUNY New Paltz STEP** on infectious disease and geriatric care. Eastern Region Office/Albany Medical College worked with **College STEP** for tours and service learning. MSI AHEC presented MHC, **College of Staten Island STEP**.
- CNYAHEC held **2nd Healthcare Olympiad** at Upstate University Hospital. Students spend months preparing for competition.

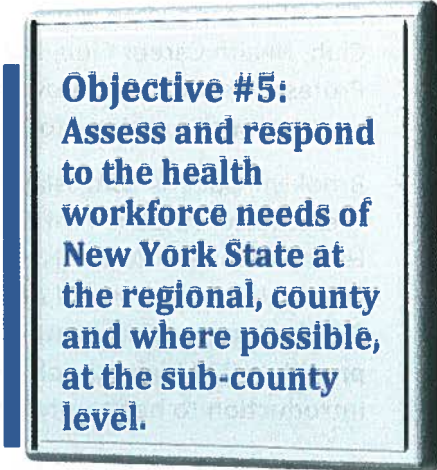
**Objective #4:**  
**Increase elementary, secondary, community college and college students' knowledge and awareness of health careers through pipeline programs that promote medicine and health professions as viable options, particularly for students from disadvantaged and underrepresented minority backgrounds, in order to promote a culturally diverse workforce.**

Comprehensive strategies provided students with exposure to health careers/health professionals including methods to assess longitudinal effectiveness. A total of 13,157 students (1,579 grades K-8 students, 9,947 grades 9-12 students and 1,631 college students) participated in health careers programs.



# New York State AHEC System

## Report on Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments



**Objective #5:**  
**Assess and respond to the health workforce needs of New York State at the regional, county and where possible, at the sub-county level.**

- AHEC expertise includes: Governor appointments to NYS Rural Health Council [Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) and Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC)]; NYS Oral Health Plan Update 2012 Advisory Committee (NYS AHEC System Director); Mid-Hudson RHN Advisory Board and Eastern Dutchess RHN Management Team (CHAHEC); Buffalo Schools Physical Activity & Nutrition Committee [Erie Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC)]; Chair, NYC DOE Health Careers Advisory Council [Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC)]; Adirondack RHN (ARHN) Steering Committee and ARHN Community Health Planning Committee [Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC)]; WIB Board of Directors/Executive Committee (CHAHEC); WIB Talent Pipeline (HMAHEC); and NYS Health Foundation Community Advisory Committee (NYS AHEC System Medical Director).
- The **NYS AHEC System Statewide Office maintained on-line Data Warehouse** for socio-demographic, health, educational and workforce data to assist with grant proposals and HPSA designations including county, ZIP code, census, minor civil divisions, HPSAs, MUA/Ps, legislative and school district data.
- The Statewide Office, BQLI AHEC, CHAHEC, ENAHEC and R-AHEC partnered with NYS DOH Bureau of Dental Health for HRSA's Oral Health Workforce grant. BQLI AHEC and R-AHEC provided student seminars regarding NHSC, NYS Primary Care Service Corps and job opportunities at health centers and other underserved communities. CHAHEC used its HealthMatch community health professions recruitment service to match dental providers in CHAHEC, ENAHEC and R-AHEC areas. The Statewide Office sponsored 2 webinars for dental residents (edited 1-hour session at [www.ahec.buffalo.edu/webinar/oral\\_health/](http://www.ahec.buffalo.edu/webinar/oral_health/)).
- Evolving from the CHAHEC HEAL NY pilot, the Ellenville/Wawarsing's **HealthMatch is a sophisticated effort of community leaders working to attract providers**. In Summer 2013, the incentive pool provided a mortgage down payment for a new family physician committing five years of service.
- The NYS AHEC System Director of Nursing is involved in NY Action Committee (NYAC) to implement Future of Nursing (FON) Report from Institute of Medicine (IOM). The Director initiated a project with NYAC and the **Statewide Office/ENAHEC/R-AHEC to collect and analyze WNY enrollment/graduation data** and communicated findings of a completed project with the Center for Nursing Workforce and Quality in Buffalo hospitals via webinar.
- CHAHEC co-sponsored the FON-Northern Metropolitan Action Coalition (NMAC) first session in March 2013. A CHAHEC Board/Nursing Workforce Development Work Group member co-leads NMAC and CHAHEC Nursing Workforce Development Coordinator serves on its Media Committee.
- As follow up to a 2012 meeting with Lt. Gov. Duffy regarding AHECs and Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs), AHEC representatives met with University at Buffalo President (Co-chair WNY REDC).
- HMAHEC collaborated with Center for Health Workforce Studies on a **12 county workforce assessment**.
- NY Metropolitan Region Office **"Veterans Initiative"** with Robin Hood and Single Stop USA works to lift veterans/military families out of poverty with case management.

# New York State AHEC System

## Report on Project Objectives and Summary of Accomplishments

- In April 2012, the NYS AHEC System received a response to HRSA's Point of Service and Enhancement AHEC funding submission 2012-2017, receiving 95 out of 100 points for this proposal of \$4,877,031 over five years. The Statewide Office also received \$20,000 for evaluation of the Washington Center for Nursing Workforce rural nurse program, a collaboration of NYS AHEC Directors of Nursing and Evaluation.
- Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC) continued year three of Western NY Rural Broadband Healthcare Network, \$5.9 million from the FCC to build broad band capabilities of 40 rural hospitals and connect them with systems in Buffalo and Rochester providing capacity for EMRs, telemedicine, grand rounds and CME. As of July 2013, the network encompasses 20 counties, 56 facilities and 5,000 miles of utilized fiber. R-AHEC received \$58,500 from Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and concluded \$260,268 USDA equipment grant for rural hospitals/clinics tele medicine/health.
- Northern AHEC (NAHEC) completed two NYS DOL 2012-13 contracts totaling \$150,000, graduating 29 youth with National Work Readiness Credential, health career occupation certification and job placement. NAHEC generated income by licensing its MyHealthCareer® website. Under award from National AHEC Organization, NAHEC CEO provided "Social Enterprise for AHECs" training for 99 attendees in Missouri, Montana and Iowa.
- Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC) received \$8,000 in 2012 (renewed for \$5,000 in 2013) from Clinton County DOH for the NYS DOH Pediatric Obesity Grant to spur provider adoption of 2007 Expert Committee Recommendations on Assessment, Prevention and Treatment of Child and Adolescent Overweight and Obesity.
- HMAHEC and NAHEC are subcontractors for rural health network workforce needs assessments: HMAHEC/Adirondack RHN - \$13,000 and NAHEC/Eastern Adirondack HCN \$9,800.
- Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC was HWRI subcontractor to LaGuardia Community College, training 29 adults as one or more: phlebotomy tech (18); EKG tech (11); and pharmacy tech (9). All phlebotomy and EKG students passed certification exam. Pharmacy tech students continue, five passed to date.
- The Oishei Foundation awarded Erie Niagara AHEC \$116,500 for work through September 2013 on the Participatory Health Assets Inventory – Talking Health project, designed to help faith organizations be proactive in community health planning.
- Catskill Hudson AHEC's Scrub Club kit is now for sale to schools/BOCES that can use the kit's lessons and activities to tailor programs for health careers exposure and exploration.
- Central NY AHEC completed 10 year, \$55,000 Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield grant for pipeline programs.

### **Objective #6: Enhance statewide support for centers and regions and dynamic needs-based Area Health Education Center System.**

The \$2.2 million in 2012-13 state funding to the New York State AHEC System leveraged a workforce development initiative projected at approximately \$6 million (through federal, local, community and private foundation funding) invested in training programs, services and jobs in medically underserved rural and urban communities.

