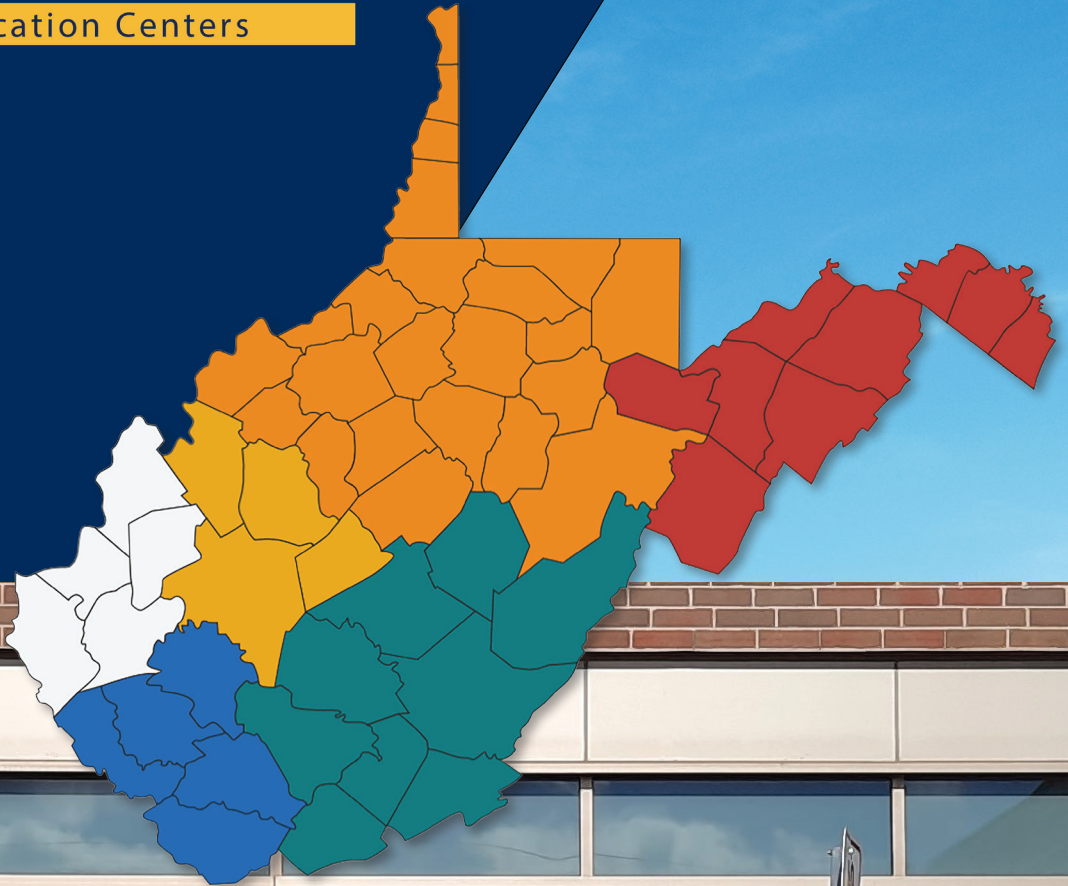


WEST VIRGINIA

AHEC

Area Health Education Centers



2023 Report

Dedicated to Community Health

West Virginia Area Health Education Centers

hsc.wvu.edu/west-virginia-area-health-education-center/

West Virginia AHEC is a *HRSA-funded rural health program housed within the West Virginia University Institute for Community and Rural Health.

Dr. Larry A. Rhodes

Executive Director Rural Programs

WV AHEC Staff

Dr. Brianna Sheppard

Director and Principal Investigator

Terry Wooten

Assistant Director

Dr. Victoria Sanchez

Director of Research and Evaluation

Dr. Stephan Brooks

Special Projects Coordinator

Kisstaman Epps

AHEC Scholars Program Manager

Central Counties AHEC

Jennifer Kayrouz

Center Director

Eastern AHEC

Aaron Henry

Executive Director

Morgan Wright

Associate Director

Candus Sutphin

Center Director

Malinda Turner

Rural Experiences Specialist

Northern WVAHEC

Amanda Fisher

Center Director

Kalan King

Project Coordinator

Donna Rollyson

Americorps Mental Health First Aid Instructor

Southeastern AHEC

Angela Alston

Center Director

Amy McIntire

Administrative Assistant

Southern WVAHEC

Audrianna Ray

Center Director

WVU Institute for Community and Rural Health

hsc.wvu.edu/icrh/

April Vestal

Director

Dr. Victoria Sanchez

Director of Research and Evaluation

Donna Bush

Southern Housing Coordinator

Jacquelynn Copenhaver

Grants Administrator

Molly Linkous

Rotation Coordinator

Gerardo Patron-Cano

Northern Housing Coordinator

Amy Snodgrass

RCORP Project Director

Christie Zachary

Program Manager, Student Outreach and Marketing

*This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number U77HP16458 Point of Service and Maintenance and Enhancement Area Health Education Centers in the amount of \$721,250. Fifty percent of total operating costs are provided from other non-federal sources, including the state of West Virginia. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to improve the health of our communities by developing an interprofessional workforce prepared to address the health needs of rural and underserved communities of West Virginia.

The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program was developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train, and retain a health professions workforce committed to underserved populations. The West Virginia AHEC program helps to bridge the gap between academic medicine and local community health needs by addressing rural health disparities and encouraging cooperation between rural communities and health care professionals.

AHEC Objectives

The following objectives place an emphasis on serving individuals from underrepresented populations and rural and/or medically underserved settings:

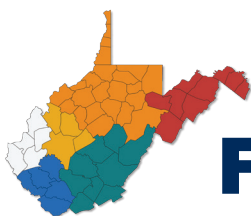
- To introduce health profession careers and offer opportunities for academic enhancement to students in grades 9-12.
- To provide health professions students and residents with clinical experiences in community-based settings.
- To promote the optimal use of the healthcare workforce and improve quality of care delivered through interprofessional collaboration.
- To strengthen the existing healthcare workforce in rural and underserved areas and support the retention of community-based health professionals.

AHEC Centers

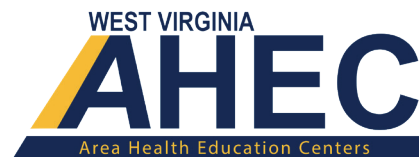
Central Counties AHEC (CCAHEC)

Eastern AHEC (EAHEC)

-  Central Counties AHEC (CCAHEC)
-  Eastern AHEC (EAHEC)
-  Northern WVAHEC (NWWAHEC)
-  Southern WVAHEC (SWVAHEC)
-  Southeastern AHEC (SEAHEC)



FY2023 Objectives:



Objective 1: To introduce health profession careers and offer opportunities for academic enhancement to students in grades 9-12 (youth pipeline programs)

The WV AHEC Program Office works with the five WV AHEC Centers to provide quality programs that expose and recruit high school students in grades 9-12 into health careers, including public health, with an emphasis on serving individuals from underrepresented populations and rural and/or medically underserved settings. Centers provide high school students with the opportunity to shadow different health professionals at Federally Qualified Health Centers, participate in health professions careers clubs, health career presentations, and health career expositions. Centers also collaborate with the WV Health Sciences and Technology Academy (HSTA) and Health Occupations Students Association (HOSA) chapters to expose students to science and health-related careers through interactive activities.

A total of 1,416 high school students completed pipeline activities in FY 2023. Most of these participants (96.0%) were from a rural or disadvantaged high school or self-identified their race/ethnicity as an underrepresented population.

Structured Programs

Health Sciences & Technology Academy Camps and Clubs

- HSTA's goal is to increase college attendance of students from underrepresented population, disadvantaged, and/or rural backgrounds and increase healthcare providers in rural and underserved communities. Students join HSTA clubs in the 9th grade and remain in HSTA for four years. They engage in rigorous academic programs within the nurturing environment of a small after-school club. They develop research projects under the mentorship of teachers and researchers that examine, and address health issues faced by their communities.
- HSTA Senior Camp (Virtual). Rising seniors attended West Virginia University for three weeks. Through this mini-college experience students earned four free college credits in Statistics and Service Learning.
- HSTA Junior Camp (Virtual). Rising juniors attended the BioMed Camp at West Virginia University. Topics ranged from public health to zebra fish. Community engaged research skills were taught, and students developed research projects focusing on their community's issues that they will conduct during the school year.
- HSTA Freshmen and Sophomore Camp (Virtual). Students were immersed in a forensics experience where they learned forensics and science techniques, evidence protocols, and presented their findings to the magistrate. Curriculum included leadership skills and multicultural evening activities.



Healthcare Exposure Week (CCAHEC) - High school students from Kanawha, Roane, Jackson, and Clay counties were exposed to multiple disciplines, working within the healthcare system and shadowing providers at Cabin Creek Health Systems (CCHS) clinics in Kanawha City, Sissonville, Clendenin, and Dawes. Students obtained certification in Red Cross Basic Life Support, Mental Health First Aid, and American College of Surgeons Stop the Bleed. Training topics included working with healthcare teams; healthcare team professionalism and communication; motivational interviewing; evidence-based medicine; networking, interviewing and resume building; diversity, equity and inclusion; teamwork and collaboration; basic life support; wound care; addiction and harm reduction; and Narcan training. Program partners included Charleston Area Medical Center Institute, West Virginia University Office of Health Services Research, and West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

Health Careers and College Expo (NWVAHEC) - 172 northern West Virginia high school students from nine schools in eight counties attended a Health Careers and College Expo at the Brushy Fork Event Center in Buckhannon. Students had the opportunity to visit exhibits, participate in hands-on activities, and talk with representatives from technical schools, colleges, and universities. Health care practitioners and students in health professional programs hosted Q&A sessions for the students.

Health Careers Virtual Job Shadow Program (NWVAHEC) - The Health Careers Virtual Job Shadow program identifies junior and senior high school students interested in health careers and provides them with virtual shadowing experiences in health professions. The student selection process is accomplished through a collaborative arrangement with the high school's HSTA teacher (when an active club is in place), the school's guidance counselor and NWVAHEC Center staff. Utilizing an online platform, the Health Careers Virtual Job Shadow program allows students to explore a wide range of health careers and experience a typical day for someone in a specific health profession. For each health career, students learn about education/skills needed, salary, colleges/universities with applicable programs, and they can explore actual job postings. Students can also complete online assessments to determine careers highly suited to their personal interests.

Health Career Shadowing Program (SWVAHEC) - A group of students from Mingo Central High School and Tug Valley High School shadowed various healthcare professionals and disciplines at Williamson Health and Wellness Center and Mingo County Health Department. Disciplines shadowed were dentistry, primary care, pediatrics, podiatry, and behavioral medicine. The students had the opportunity to shadow various healthcare professionals such as dentists, dental hygienists, physicians (DO, MD), registered nurses, medical assistants, certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses, nurse practitioners, licensed professional counselors, social workers, medical laboratory technicians, phlebotomists, and community health workers.

2023 Senior Portfolio Evaluation (SWVAHEC) - A group of Mingo Central High School Seniors developed Senior Portfolios that consisted of a cover letter, resume, letters of recommendation, certifications, and hours of clinical experience during their senior year. Students interviewed with a panel of evaluators that included various healthcare professionals and administrators. The health professionals reviewed and provided feedback to student portfolios and interviews. Students gained valuable insight and knowledge on application processes and interviews for health profession programs in West Virginia.

Students learned about educational opportunities and programs, West Virginia specific financial aid, college readiness, and loan repayment program opportunities provided by HRSA and WV Department of Health and Human Resources.

2023 Petersburg High School Career Club (EAHEC) – Health career club for students at Petersburg High School (PHS) in Grant County. Activities included monthly club meetings with health care presenters; a field trip to Bridgewater College with a Gross Anatomy Lab tour; CPR, First Aid and Stop the Bleed Training; and the PHS Health Career Fair with displays and activities by local health care providers. Students also participated in the Virtual Job Shadow online program.

2023 Berkeley County Health Career Club (EAHEC) - Health career club for high school students attending Martinsburg, Hedgesville, Spring Mills, and Musselman high schools.

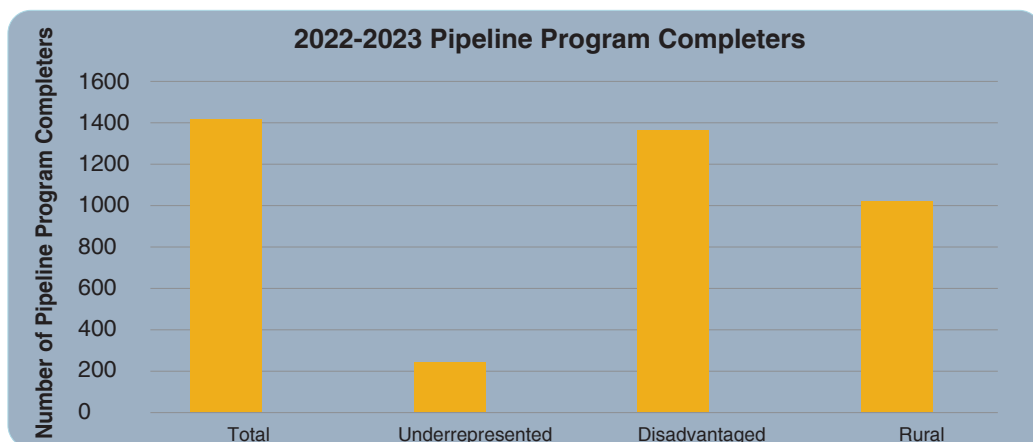
Global Public Service Academy (SWVAHEC) - Rural healthcare and shadowing program for high school students from The Webb School of Knoxville in Tennessee. During the week, students shadowed various healthcare professionals and disciplines at Williamson Health and Wellness Center. Disciplines shadowed were primary care, pediatrics, podiatry, dentistry, and behavioral health. Students shadowed various healthcare professionals such as physicians (DO, MD), registered nurses, medical assistants, licensed practical nurses, nurse practitioners, and community health workers. Other activities included participation in health fairs, health screenings throughout the community, home visits with community health workers, and Substance Use Disorder/Opioid Use Disorder recovery group meetings. Students also learned about the history, culture, and barriers within rural West Virginia.

2023 Moving Onward and Upward (NWVAHEC) - The Moving Onward and Upward (MOU) project identifies junior and senior high school students interested in health careers and provides them with extended shadowing experiences in health careers. The selection process is accomplished through a collaborative arrangement with medical or mid-level staff working at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), NWVAHEC staff, and the high school's HSTA teacher or guidance counselor. Six MOU students rotated with appropriate health professionals from a variety of departments within the FQHC for a total of 50 hours each.

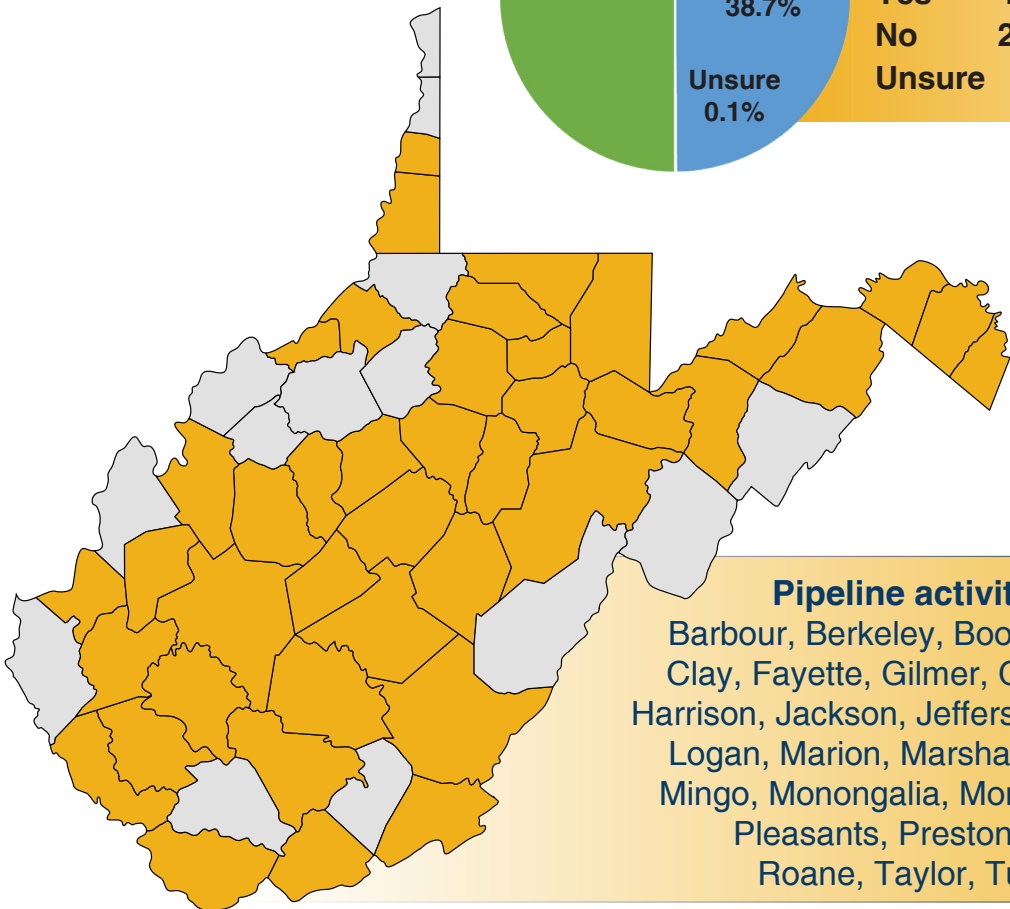
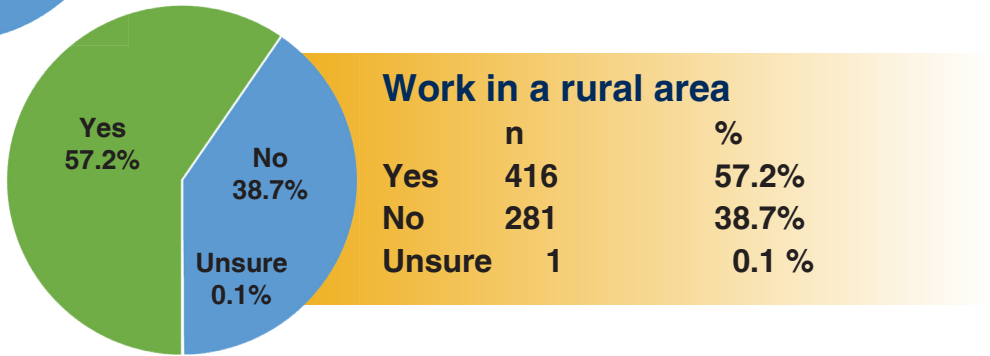
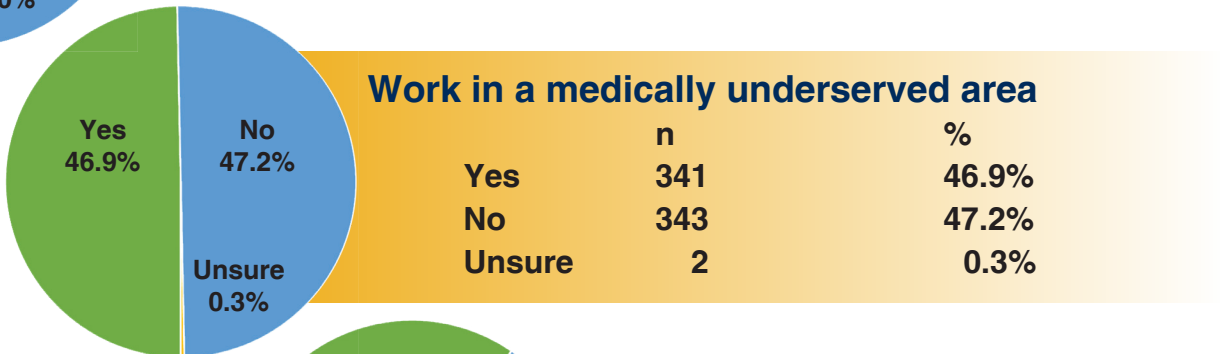
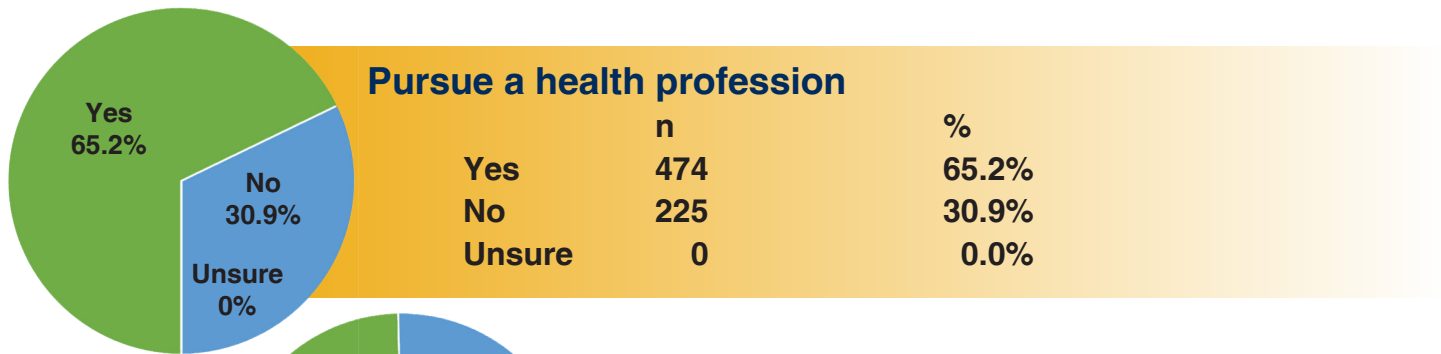
FQHC staff supervise these shadowing opportunities and act as coordinators to manage the activities of the MOU students while completing their rotations. NWVAHEC staff meet weekly with MOU students to discuss their rotation experiences, plan community projects, coordinate health career enrichment education, and schedule activities with one of the state's schools of medicine. When available, undergraduate and graduate health profession students rotating in the NWVAHEC region meet with the MOU students to increase their knowledge of health careers. In addition, NWVAHEC staff direct the MOU students while they complete independent learning projects including public health research, health career research, and health professional interviewing. Students also complete assignments in the Virtual Job Shadow platform which exposes them to additional career choices, college/program information, scholarship opportunities, and resume building skills.

Additional Pipeline Programs in 2023

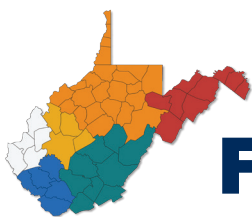
- Health career presentations at Mingo Central High School and Tug Valley High School (SWVAHEC) to learn about health career tracks, educational opportunities, and financial aid.
- WV HOSA Student Leadership Conference (CCAHEC), a two-day event for nearly 300 students who participated in multiple, juried health topic competitions.
- Health career fair at Petersburg High School (EAHEC) for students in grades 10-12.
- Two Mini Med Schools for high school students held at the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine Clinical Evaluation Center (SEAHEC).



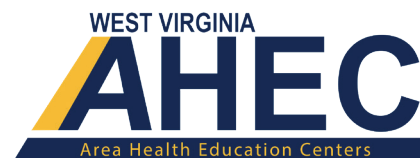
At the completion of structured activities, participants are asked about their intentions for their future careers. In FY 2023, survey response rates were 96.1% (699 of 727 students responded to at least one question on the survey). Of those who responded to at least one survey question, approximately half intend to pursue a health profession, work in a medically underserved area, and work in a rural area.



Pipeline activities served these counties:
Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pleasants, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Roane, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Webster



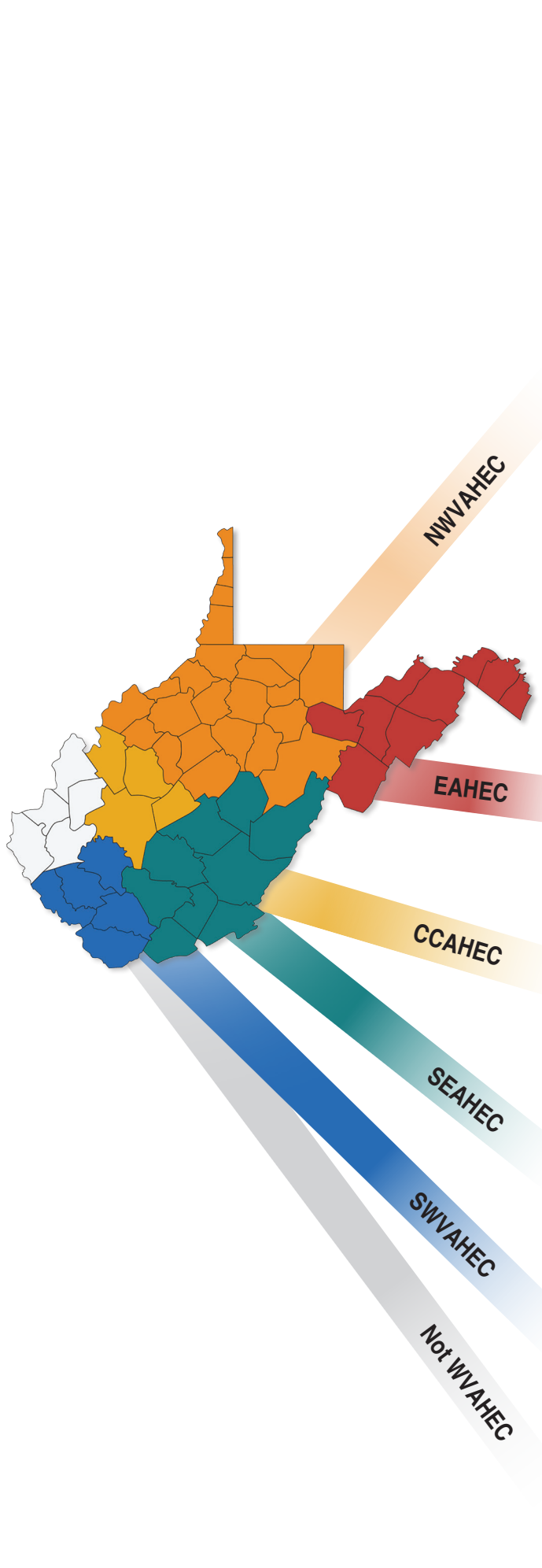
FY2023 Objectives:



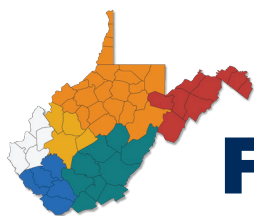
Objective 2: To provide health professions students and residents in higher education with clinical experiences in community-based settings

In 2023, health professions students from a variety of fields participated in community-based clinical rotations, most of which were in rural or medically underserved communities (MUC). Rotations were supervised by clinical preceptors across the state.

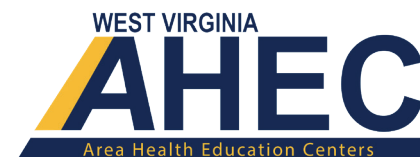
	Number of rotations done by students in MUC or Rural	Number of rotations done by students	Number of students who did rotations
Medicine	353	357	258
Pharmacy	290	299	117
Nursing	161	161	161
Pathologists' Assistant	93	122	30
Physical Therapy	59	59	38
Nurse Practitioner	56	56	28
Dentistry	50	50	47
Dental Hygiene	42	42	41
Physician Assistant	33	33	33
Medical Resident	16	16	15
Exercise Physiology	8	9	9
Health Informatics & Information Management	2	2	2
Clinical Psychology	1	1	1
Clinical Mental Health Counseling	1	1	1
Public Health	1	1	1
Social Work	1	1	1
	1167	1210	783



WV County	Number of Preceptors	Number of Preceptors MUC or Rural	% of Preceptors MUC or Rural
Barbour	2	2	100%
Braxton	1	1	100%
Brooke	11	11	100%
Calhoun	1	1	100%
Doddridge	1	1	100%
Gilmer	0	0	
Hancock	2	2	100%
Harrison	39	39	100%
Lewis	3	3	100%
Marion	23	23	100%
Marshall	8	8	100%
Monongalia	58	58	100%
Ohio	8	8	100%
Pleasants	0	0	
Preston	21	21	100%
Randolph	9	9	100%
Ritchie	1	1	100%
Taylor	4	4	100%
Tyler	0	0	
Upshur	12	12	100%
Wetzel	3	3	100%
Wirt	1	1	100%
Wood	13	13	100%
Berkeley	27	27	100%
Grant	3	3	100%
Hampshire	1	1	100%
Hardy	2	2	100%
Jefferson	23	23	100%
Mineral	4	4	100%
Morgan	1	1	100%
Pendleton	1	1	100%
Tucker	2	2	100%
Clay	0	0	
Jackson	3	3	100%
Kanawha	22	22	100%
Roane	2	2	100%
Fayette	10	10	100%
Greenbrier	3	3	100%
Mercer	8	8	100%
Monroe	0	0	
Nicholas	4	4	100%
Pocahontas	1	1	100%
Raleigh	43	43	100%
Summers	2	2	100%
Webster	0	0	
Boone	1	1	100%
Logan	5	5	100%
McDowell	1	1	100%
Mingo	3	3	100%
Wyoming	1	1	100%
Cabell	0	0	
Lincoln	1	1	100%
Mason	3	3	100%
Putnam	9	9	100%
Wayne	1	1	100%
Out of State	77	55	71%



FY2023 Objectives:



Objective 3: To promote the optimal use of the healthcare workforce and improve quality of care delivered through interprofessional collaboration

Interprofessional collaboration is practice and education where individuals from two or more professional backgrounds meet, interact, learn together, and practice. WV AHEC weaves interprofessional education into team-based activities, rural immersion activities and the Rural Community Health Scholars Program.

Following Interprofessional Education activities, health professional students reported:

87% *gained a better understanding of their own approach to care within an interprofessional team*

88% *gained an appreciation for the benefits of interprofessional teamwork*

83% *see themselves preferring to work on an interprofessional team*

85% *are confident in their ability to work collaboratively with other health professionals to achieve a goal*

Evaluation of Interprofessional Education for Training Activities for Current Health Professional Students, Residents and/or Fellows

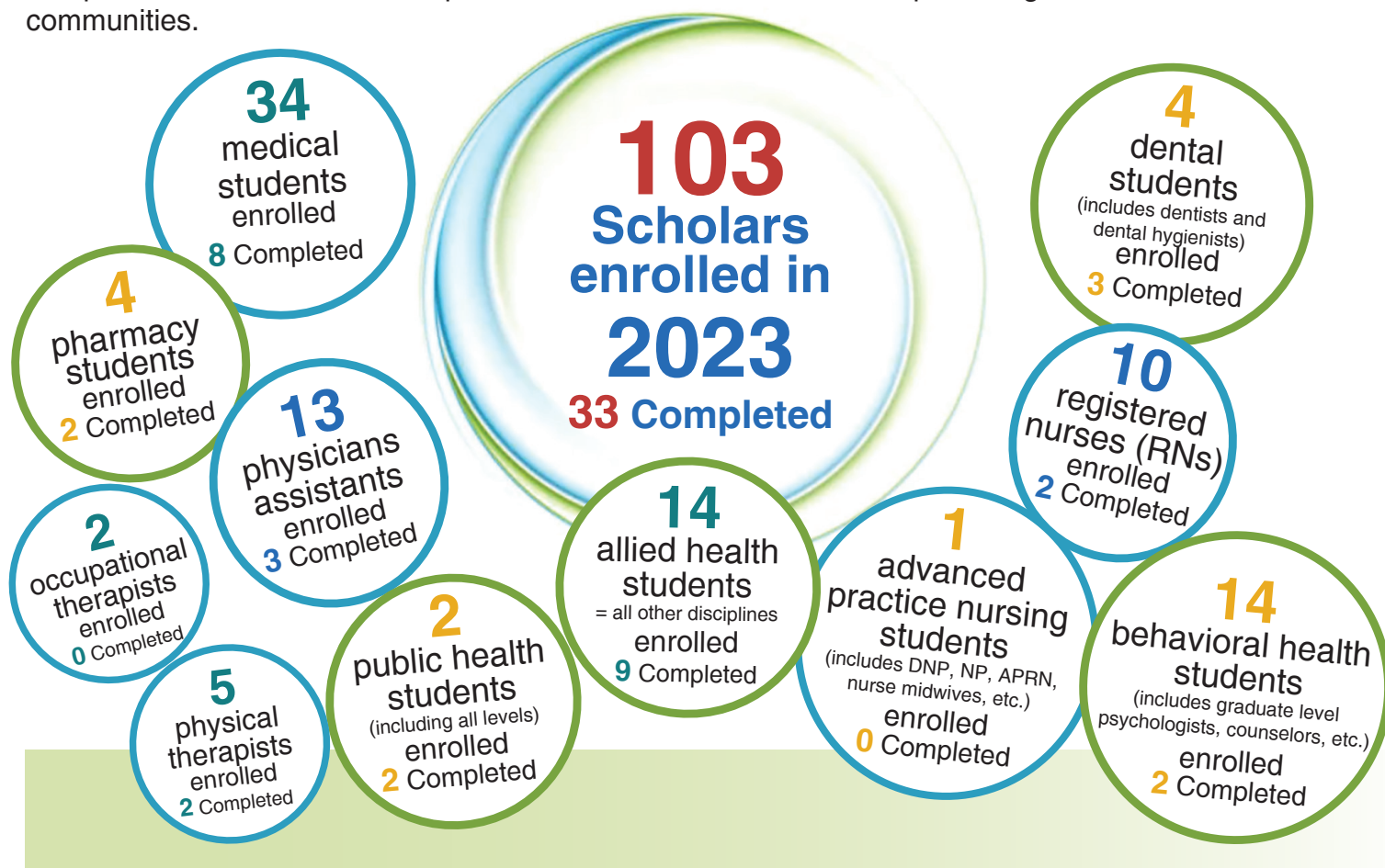
Interprofessional Socializing and Valuing Scale

Not at all 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 To a very great extent WV

	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i> <i>to a great extent (6)</i> <i>and to a very great</i> <i>extent (7)</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>I have gained a better understanding of my own approach to care within an interprofessional team.</i>	141	123	87%
<i>I have gained an appreciation for the benefits of interprofessional teamwork.</i>	115	101	88%
<i>I am preferring to work on an interprofessional team.</i>	139	115	83%
<i>I feel comfortable initiating discussions about sharing responsibility for client care.</i>	112	99	88%
<i>I am able to share and exchange ideas in a team discussion.</i>	140	127	91%
<i>AHEC IPE Post-Assessment</i>			
<i>Not at all confident 1 – 2 – 3 Very Confident</i>			
<i>I am confident in my ability to develop and implement a community or clinic intervention.</i>	140	69	49%
<i>I am confident in my ability to identify appropriate roles and interventions of disciplines other than my own.</i>	141	87	62%
<i>I am confident in my ability to work collaboratively with other health professionals to achieve a goal.</i>	140	117	84%
IPT – Interprofessional Team; values reflect total participation and not unique individuals.			

WV AHEC Rural Community Health Scholars

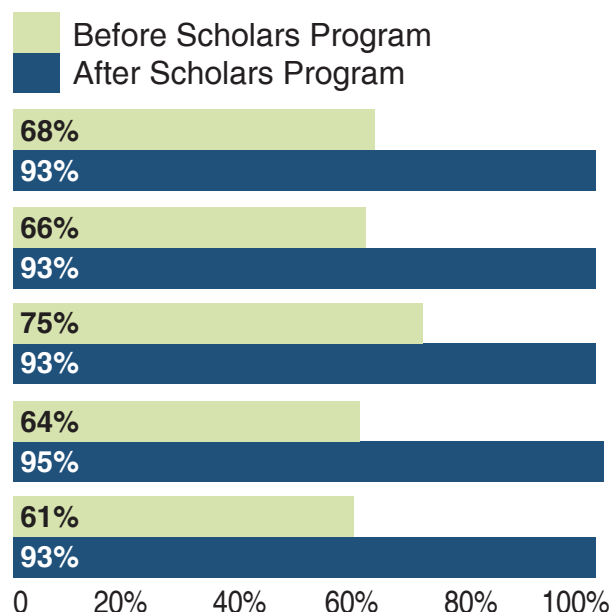
WV AHEC Rural Community Health Scholars is a two-year program available to 75 of West Virginia's top health professions students from institutions across the state, providing supplemental and interprofessional educational experiences to students interested in practicing in rural or underserved communities.



A survey of Scholars program participants showed a 115% to 380% increase in their confidence in key abilities (N=44).

Scholars Core Competency Evaluation

How confident were you in your ability to:



Quotes from participants about how participation in the RCH Scholars Program has informed their future practice:



“Opening my eyes to the difficulties rural veterans face for example and allowing my future practice to be better equipped to serving specific underserved populations.”



“Reminding me to take a step back and truly get to know the people I am working with and those I am serving. Creating community ties will be integral to my future practice.”

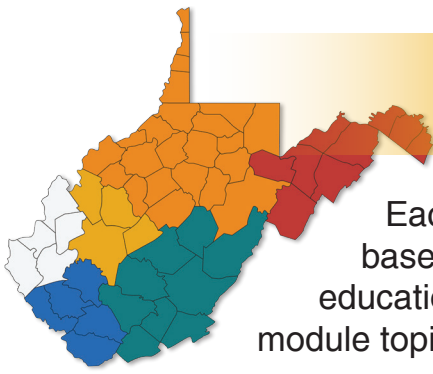
“Giving me the awareness I need to enhance my practice in understanding the cultural, environmental, medical and social factors that play a role in my patients' health.”

“Providing knowledge about resources that are available now and how to connect patients to those resources.”

“Allowing me to collaborate with other individuals in the healthcare field and see things from a different perspective.”

“Helping me make connections with other AHEC members that I will be able to rely on in my future practice.”





Each year of the program, Scholars complete 40 hours of community-based experience in rural West Virginia, plus 40 hours of didactic education based on the core topic areas required by HRSA. Didactic module topics and learning objectives in 2023 were:

• **Addiction in Rural Populations**

- o Identify the major theories of the etiology and drives of addiction.
- o Define the continuum of addiction treatment options and the basic characteristics of the treatment and recovery process.
- o Define the basic characteristics of opioids as an addictive substance and describe the factors that led to the current opioid epidemic.
- o Describe key attributes of 12-step peer support groups and learn about 12-step meetings through direct experience.
- o Describe how the Drug Court model compares to traditional criminal justice approaches to drug-related crimes and addiction.

• **Community-based Chronic Disease Prevention**

- o Learn strategies for preventing chronic disease.
- o Explain connection between food insecurity and chronic disease.
- o Explain connection between physical activity and chronic disease.
- o Identify programs to engage children and youth.
- o Identify challenges related to long term stability of behavior change.
- o Reflect on your role for chronic disease prevention.



• **Cultural Competency**

- o Recognize the role of cultural competence in health care access, delivery and diagnosis and be able to articulate disparities in health care settings.
- o Articulate a public health framework for culture's role in healthcare.
- o Reduce unconscious bias and stereotyping in health care delivery.
- o Develop skills to optimize settings for diverse patient populations.



- **Interprofessional Education**

- o Define interprofessional education and explain the four core competencies for interprofessional education.
- o Understand the IPE concepts: educational theory, assessment, debriefing and simulation.
- o Utilize your knowledge of IPE and your profession to contribute to HSC IPE sessions focused on the core competencies.
- o Use the knowledge and skills developed to serve as an active participant throughout IPE Week.

- **Substance Use Disorder: Pregnant and Parenting Women**

- o Become familiar with the biopsychosocial model of risk that often sets the stage for Substance Use Disorder in women of childbearing age in Appalachia.
- o Become familiar with the developmental impacts of in-utero substance exposure to substances on infants at birth and the interactive impacts of this exposure with other environmental risk factors throughout childhood.
- o Become familiar with recommended best practices for working with women and their families to help them move toward successful recovery.
- o Become familiar with the characteristics of rural West Virginia/Appalachian culture that create risk and resilience factors for these women.

- **Trauma Informed Treatment Practices for Children and Families in Rural Areas**

- o Articulate the varying definitions of “rural” including those used by the federal government as well as the colloquial definitions used by community members.
- o Understand the biopsychosocial model that surrounds families raising children with complex medical conditions and developmental disorders.
- o Define the risk and resilience factors that function in nuclear and extended families in rural and urban areas and integrate an understanding of cultural impact on these factors.
- o Understand the unique role that profession plays in meeting the needs of these families as a functioning system embedded in a culturally grounded community and the importance of working in integrated care teams.

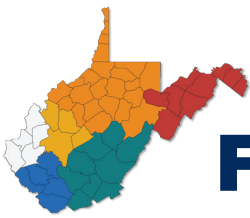
- **Veterans in Rural Healthcare**

- o Understand the characteristics of rural veterans and how service experiences and social determinants of health contribute to veteran health care needs.
- o Identify current and emerging health needs and issues and the role of culture and how the values within the context of military service impact health outcomes and access to care.
- o Become familiar with current evidence-based practices and interprofessional approaches to meet veterans’ health care needs.
- o Become familiar with locations and models of care in the rural health landscape to meet veterans’ health care needs.

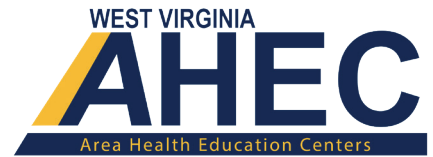


RCH Scholars attend a rural immersion at least once during their two years in the Scholars program. Rural immersions include community experiences through which students learn about Appalachian culture and the unique healthcare opportunities available while contributing to healthcare prevention and promotion programs that address health disparities. In FY23, students could choose from the following immersions hosted by the five AHEC Centers:

-  **Rural Maternal Health (SEAHEC)** - Objectives for this immersion included understanding barriers to, and opportunities for improving access to high quality maternal health services in rural communities; the impact of Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) on maternal and obstetric care; the role of government and non-government agencies in the provision and management of maternal care; the interprofessional role of healthcare workers within the maternal healthcare continuum of care; and using evidence based, maternal health interventions appropriate for rural communities.
-  **Nutrition, Food Insecurity and Chronic Disease Prevention (NWVAHEC)** – During the two-day immersion in several northern West Virginia rural communities, students participated in hands-on learning activities related to food preservation including canning and freezing, learning about food insecurity, chronic disease, and cooking on a budget. Students toured the Mountaineer Food Bank in Gassaway and participated in Volunteer Saturday where they packed 234 food boxes that were distributed to seniors.
-  **Health Inequities and Disparities in Rural Communities (SWVAHEC)** - Students learned about the history, culture, growth, initiatives, assessments, and programs that support and address health inequities and disparities in rural communities; and about barriers that rural underserved communities face in southern West Virginia. They also gained knowledge and skills on gardening and canning, school-based mental health services, and services provided by local FQHC programs.
-  **Health Policy and Advocacy in Rural Communities (CCAHEC)** – Students learned about provider advocacy and involvement in addressing health policy and practice guidelines, legislative policy changes, regulatory enforcement in clinical practices, and how to work with the media to educate rural communities about emerging health concerns. Students attended Rural Health Day at the West Virginia Legislature, Black Lung presentations at an FQHC and pulmonary rehabilitation center, and met with local reporters to discuss media outreach.
-  **Nutrition and Food Insecurity in Rural Communities (EAHEC)** - Students participated in an interdisciplinary experience in Berkeley Springs to learn about food insecurity and nutrition. Presenters included WVU Extension, Glascock's Produce, and Starting Points of Morgan County. At the Morgan County Senior Center, students volunteered at a community kitchen, preparing meals for community members. Students also worked with WVU MedCHEFS faculty and participated in a Chopped!-style Pantry Challenge and visited War Memorial Hospital to meet with their diabetic educator/dietician.



FY2023 Objectives:

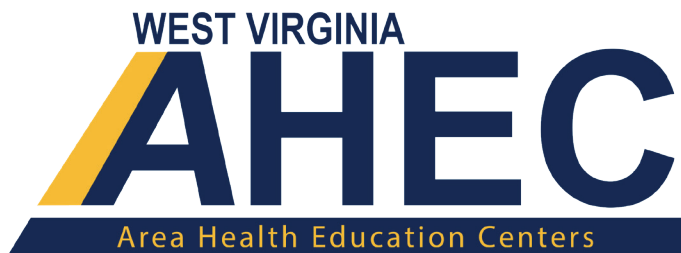


Objective 4: To strengthen the existing healthcare workforce in rural and underserved areas and support the retention of community-based health professionals

Continuing education (CE) supports the lifelong learning of healthcare professionals through didactic programs that keep providers informed about the latest developments in healthcare. WV AHEC Centers provide CE programs on a variety of healthcare topics. Centers also promote weekly Project ECHO® sessions to providers in their region. Project ECHO®, developed and implemented through the West Virginia Clinical & Translational Science Institute, provides best-practice specialty care information through hub-and-spoke knowledge-sharing networks, led by expert teams who use multi-point video conferencing to conduct virtual clinics with community providers. Project ECHO® topic areas include:

- Campus Mental Health
- Child Protective Services
- Chronic Lung Disease
- Covid-19
- Endocrine
- Hepatitis and HIV
- Psychiatry
- Medication Assisted Treatment/
Substance Use Disorders (SUD)
- Pregnant and Parenting Women
with SUD
- Quality Improvement for SUD





Number of Continuing Education and Project ECHO participants who work in each county

West Virginia County Participation

There was participation from each of West Virginia's 55 counties

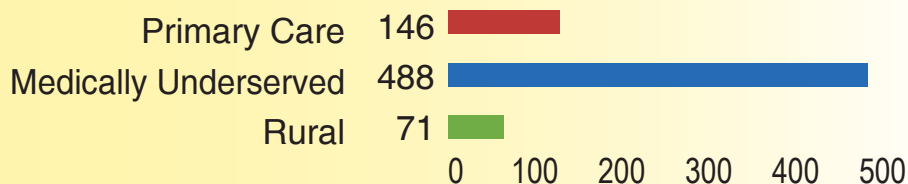
Participant Disciplines

WV AHEC Centers provide continuing education programs to:

	#	% of total
Allied Health	13	1.4%
Behavioral Health	413	44.4%
Dentistry	2	0.2%
Medicine	109	11.7%
Nursing	72	7.7%
Other	275	29.6%
Pharmacy	11	1.2%
Physician Assistant	12	1.3%
Public Health	23	2.5%
Total	930	

Employer Site Characteristics

WV AHEC CE and WV Project ECHO participants work in:



93% agree or strongly agree that participation in this continuing education activity increased their knowledge of the topic

80% agree or strongly agree that after completing this education activity, they intend to implement at least one practice improvement

93% agree or strongly agree that after attending this ECHO Session, they feel confident in their ability to treat patients and answer questions regarding this topic area

WV County		
NWVAHEC	Barbour	7
	Braxton	5
	Brooke	7
	Calhoun	12
	Doddridge	1
	Gilmer	7
	Hancock	4
	Harrison	35
	Lewis	9
	Marion	33
	Marshall	3
	Monongalia	236
	Ohio	55
	Pleasants	2
	Preston	7
	Randolph	17
	Ritchie	4
	Taylor	2
	Tyler	1
	Upshur	12
	Wetzel	2
	Wirt	3
	Wood	53
EAHEC	Berkeley	32
	Grant	32
	Hampshire	9
	Hardy	6
	Jefferson	13
	Mineral	9
	Morgan	1
	Pendleton	4
	Tucker	3
	Clay	4
CCAHEC	Jackson	9
	Kanawha	371
	Roane	5
	Fayette	37
SEAHEC	Greenbrier	57
	Mercer	47
	Monroe	7
	Nicholas	12
	Pocahontas	7
	Raleigh	48
	Summers	6
	Webster	10
	Boone	9
	Logan	10
SWVAHEC	McDowell	6
	Mingo	53
	Wyoming	7
	Cabell	115
Not WV AHEC	Lincoln	11
	Mason	9
	Putnam	26
	Wayne	14
	Unknown	26
	Out of State	139

WV AHEC Centers

Central Counties Area Health Education Center (CCAHEC)

Charleston, WV

Counties Served

Kanawha, Clay, Roane, Jackson

Mission Statement

The mission of Central Counties AHEC is to promote the health and well-being of all people in our communities, especially the most vulnerable, through health care that is guided by science, compassion, and respect and to contribute to the education of skilled and caring health professionals.

CCAHEC

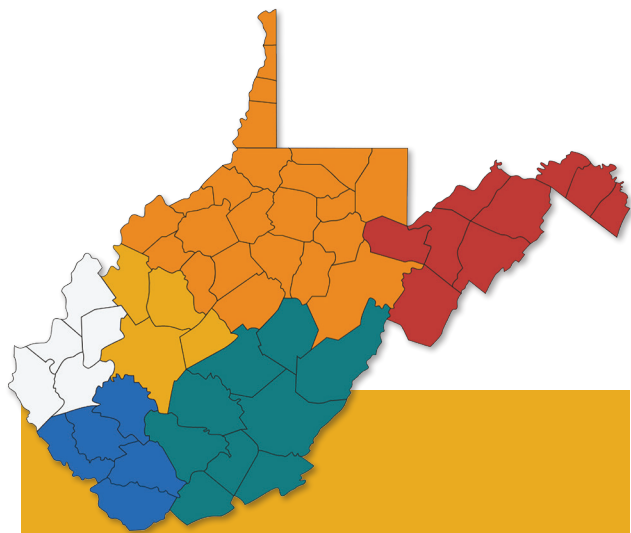
CCAHEC has been working with Cabin Creek Health Systems, a federally qualified health center, to meet the mission and goals of the WV AHEC Program since 2006. Partners include the Boys & Girls Club, Coplin Health Systems, Community Care of WV West Virginia, WV Higher Education Policy Commission, WV Farmer's Market Association, West Virginia University, Marshall University, Orchard Manor, and Charleston Area Medical Center Institute.

CCAHEC implements programs designed to support the AHEC goals of promoting healthcare professions, providing community education, supporting interprofessional collaboration, and workforce development. Programs include support of the West Virginia Social Work Conference, Healthcare Exposure Week, Mental Health First Aid Trainings, FARMacy health screenings, and health career presentations.

Program Participants Say...

"Learning about substance use and harm reduction makes me want to change to social work."

"I enjoyed visiting the state capitol building. I learned how accessible our state government representatives truly are."



Staff

Jennifer Kayrouz, Executive Director

Host Agency

Cabin Creek Health Systems



WV AHEC Centers

Eastern Area Health Education Center, Inc. (EAHEC)

Martinsburg, WV

Counties Served

Berkeley, Mineral, Grant, Morgan, Pendleton,
Hardy, Tucker, Jefferson, Hampshire

Mission Statement

Central to the mission of the Eastern Area Health Education Center is service to the community. These services are provided in two ways: 1) the provision of service to the community via AHEC faculty and trainees. 2) The provision of education to the community via community-based outreach education.

EAHEC

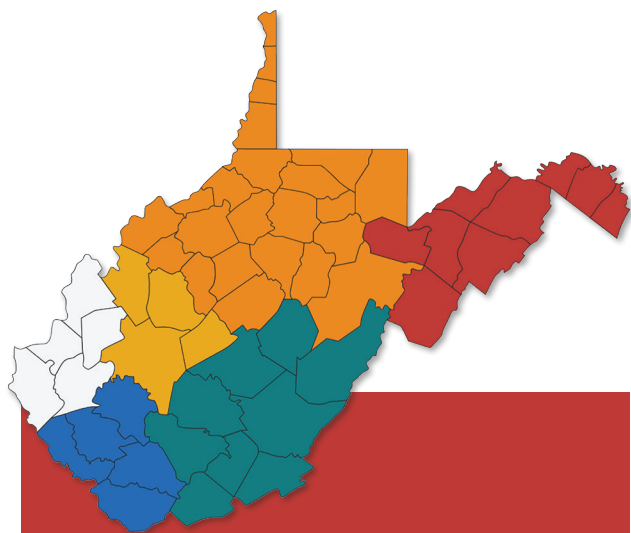
Eastern AHEC is housed in the WVU Health Sciences Center Eastern Campus and has been serving the eastern panhandle since 2002. EAHEC is an independent 501(c)(3) organization governed by an advisory board of directors. Community partners include Grant Memorial Hospital, American Geriatrics Society, WVU Extension, Glascock's Produce, Starting Points of Morgan County, Morgan County Senior Center, WVU MedCHEFS, War Memorial Hospital, Grant County Schools, and Berkeley County Schools.

EAHEC addresses issues related to community health and wellness, nutrition and obesity, elder care, substance use disorder, pain management, diabetes education, rural rotations, continuing education, and pipeline education for students. Programs include health career clubs in Berkeley and Grant counties, support for HSTA students and continuing education programs on osteoporosis, dementia, and reducing medication related falls in older adults.

Program Participants Say...

"The fact that you are able to hear different points of view about careers and know about careers that you might not have heard of. It is just a really good environment to learn about the medical field if one intends to go further into pursuing a career there."

"I enjoyed the speakers as I learned so much from them and it really inspired me to keep pushing for my career in medicine and health sciences."



Staff

Aaron Henry, Executive Director
Morgan Wright, Associate Director
Candus Sutphin, Center Director
Malinda Turner, Rural Experiences
Specialist

Host Agency

The Eastern AHEC is a stand-alone
501(c)(3) non-profit organization



WV AHEC Centers

Northern WV Area Health Education Center, Inc. (NWVAHEC)

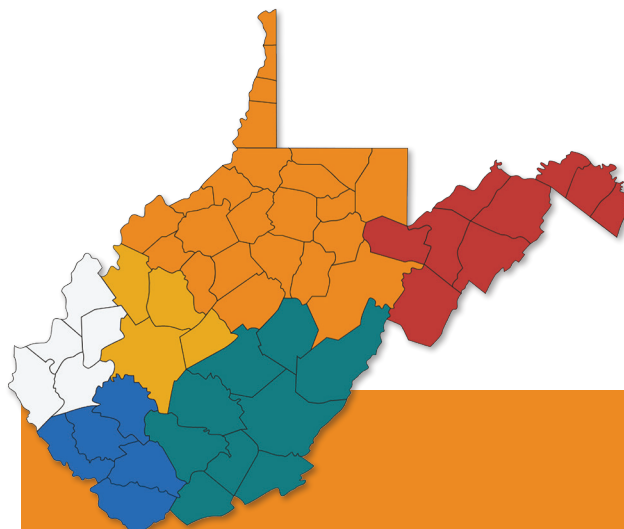
Glenville, WV

Counties Served

Barbour, Ohio, Braxton, Pleasants, Brooke, Preston, Calhoun, Randolph, Doddridge, Ritchie, Gilmer, Taylor, Hancock, Tyler, Harrison, Upshur, Lewis, Wetzel, Marion, Wirt, Marshall, Wood, Monongalia

Mission Statement

NWVAHEC's mission is to bring quality healthcare to the underserved populations in 23 West Virginia counties by training, recruiting, and retaining health care professionals.



Staff

Amanda Fisher, Executive Director
Kalan King, Project Coordinator
Donna Rollyson, Instructor
Americorps Mental Health First Aid

Host Agency

Glenville State University
Research Corporation



NWVAHEC

NWVAHEC is located on the Glenville State University campus and has been operating as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit since 2003. Partners include WVU Medicine United Hospital Center, West Liberty University, Camden Clark Hospital, Normantown Historical Community Center, Mountaineer Food Bank, WVU Extension, West Virginia State University, Marshall University, and Project ECHO.

NWVAHEC provides resources and rural healthcare experiences to undergraduate and graduate students and residents, continuing education to healthcare professionals, and pipeline programs that expose high school students to health careers. Programs include Project ECHO, continuing education for healthcare professionals, support for HSTA camps, Virtual Job Shadow, Moving Onward and Upward, and Health Occupations Today (HOT) Expo for rural high school students.



Program Participants Say...

"My favorite experience was being able to shadow each department to see what each department/ career field is like, so I get the choice to learn more about my future before it happens."

"I enjoyed shadowing the different healthcare professionals and learning how they all work together to give quality care to patients."

WV AHEC Centers

Southeastern Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC)

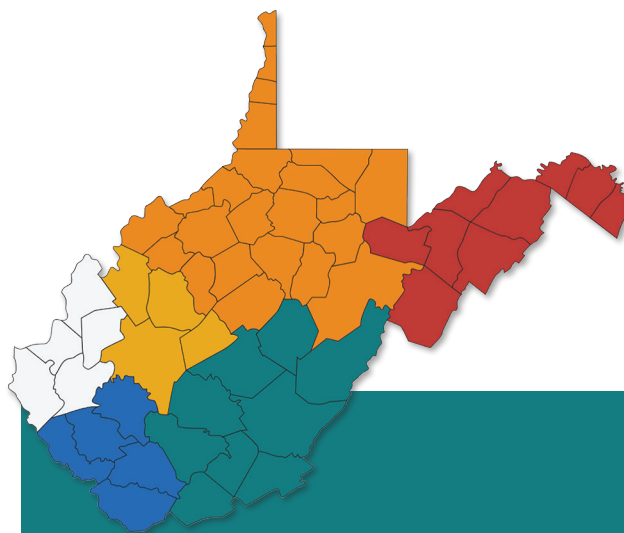
Lewisburg, WV

Counties Served

Fayette, Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Raleigh, Mercer, Summers, Monroe, Webster, Nicholas

Mission Statement

To advocate for quality primary and preventive health care delivery to rural and underserved populations by improving the distribution of health care professionals through academics and community collaboration.



Staff

Angela L. Alston, Executive Director
Amy McIntire, Administrative Assistant

Host Agency

Mountain State Osteopathic
Postdoctoral Training Institutions
(MSOPTI)



SEAHEC

SEAHEC is located on the campus of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) and has been providing programs since 2002. Partners include WVSOM, Rural Health Initiative, West Virginia Perinatal Partnership, HSTA, Project ECHO, Drug Free Mother/Baby Program of Greenbrier Valley, West Virginia Breastfeeding Institute, and Family Care Health Centers.

The Center coordinates community health education, creates opportunities to expose health profession students to the health needs of rural underserved areas, and provides continuing medical education to health care professionals. Programs include support for HSTA camps, continuing education on pain management and opioids, and mini-med school site visits for high school students covering a range of health topics, such as wellness and self-care, healthy habits, heart health, physiology, anatomy, a discussion on the impact of social determinants of health, and an interdisciplinary health professions career presentation.



Program Participants Say...

"I enjoyed the Rural Maternal Health immersion--it was a thorough 3-day in-depth study, and it made me aware of issues I may personally have to navigate through myself"

"The discussions enhanced my understanding and made me look deeper into the topic at hand."

WV AHEC Centers

Southern West Virginia Area Health Education Center (SWVAHEC)

Williamson, WV

Counties Served

Boone, Logan, Mingo, McDowell, Wyoming

Mission Statement

The mission of Southern West Virginia AHEC is to improve the overall health of rural and underserved populations in southern West Virginia through exceptional education, training, recruitment, and program activities.

SWVAHEC

Since 2018, SWVAHEC has been housed at Williamson Health and Wellness Center, a federally qualified health center in southern West Virginia. Partners include WVU Institute for Community and Rural Health, WVCTSI, Global Public Service Academy, Mingo County Schools, Marshall University, Mingo County Family Resource Network, New Heights Consortium, ABLE Families, and HSTA. SWVAHEC improves healthcare in their region by training healthcare professionals, encouraging high school students to pursue careers in healthcare, and helping health profession students expand their knowledge of rural healthcare disparities and increase their skills in caring for people in rural communities. Programs include motivational interviewing, health career shadowing, support for HSTA, health careers presentations, crisis prevention and intervention, and health center tours.

Program Participants Say...

“The community health workers taught me about how someone’s health is affected by public transportation, education, where they live, and access to healthy foods”

“I learned so much about being a dentist in our rural community. The dentists and dental assistants I shadowed inspired me to pursue a dental career in West Virginia.”

