**UC AHEC Program Activity Report**

**April -- June 2023**

**Goal 1.** Increase and expand the urban and rural underserved healthcare workforce through programs that expose underrepresented minority and rural students to health care careers.

**Pipeline Healthcare Pathways Project**

Staff continues work on the Adams/Brown/Clermont summer “Camp Scrub”, scheduled on June 8-9. Staff attended the Grant Career Center’s Community Advisory Committee meeting; two Healthcare Pathways Group meetings; a Talent Collaborative meeting on data and workforce equity, and several webinars on increasing the behavioral health workforce.

**Rural Health Student Interest Group and Statewide Rural Physician Training Pathways (RPTP) Initiative**

New leadership is working on 2023-24 programming to start in the fall. The Rural Physician Training Pathways team is gathering data from the most recent graduates to see how many chose rural areas for their residencies. The group also shared key priority areas for the Ohio Rural Health Association’s “Rural Access to Care” survey.

**Blemished Record Project**

No new information to report on this project.

**Behavioral Health Workforce**

The five subcommittees are meeting – Public Awareness & Trust, Recruitment & Retention, Data & Research, Public Policy & Advocacy and Care Delivery System. Short, medium, and long-term goals are being identified. The search for an administrative marketing and communications professional to sustain the work of the initiative continues and Interact for Health is providing the effort with a license to a robust labor market information tool, JobsEQ.

**Goal 2.** Partner with strategic organizations across the community, region, state, and nation to advance healthcare to rural and urban areas and support existing healthcare programs and providers.

**Older Adult Aging in Partnership with UC Division of Geriatric Medicine**

We have partnered with the Geriatrics Division in the Department of Family Medicine to promote rural and underserved health initiatives for older adults in our community.

* Older Adult Training Simulation: We have two older adult training simulation suits. We have partnered with the Research and Geriatrics Divisions at UC Department of Family Medicine to research simulation experiences that will increase empathy in those caring for older adults. We have had interprofessional learners throughout the community train on these suits. The suits were used at the Southern Hills Summer Career Academy, an event for middle and high school students interested in healthcare careers. The new UC West Chester family medicine residents will use these suits as part of their geriatrics training. These suits and simulation exercises are available to community partners for training experiences at no cost.
* Remote Home Visits: We have partnered with The Christ Hospital Family Medicine Associates offer remote home visit medical appointments during COVID in urban underserved communities. To date, the telehealth program has trained 40 learners (including medical students and residents/fellow physicians) and completed 84 patient visits.

**Goal 3.** Develop interprofessional learners who will serve patients in underserved rural and urban communities.

**IPE and Rural Training**

**AHEC Scholars**
Cohorts 4 & 5 continued their 2022-23 programming. 3 Cohort 4 students graduated; 2 are going on to medical school and 1 will be attending pharmacy school. Over the course of the Spring 2023 semester, Scholars participated in several events spanning various topics relating to care in rural and urban underserved communities. These include:

**Navigating Infodemics & Building Trust During Public Health Emergencies, April 10-11**
*virtual workshop*
Scholars attended The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s two-day workshop to examine public health infodemics, the COVID-19 infodemic, the impact of infodemics on trust in the public health enterprise, and tools and practices to address infodemics.

**Cost of Poverty Experience, April 17**
*virtual training hosted by partners at Xavier University*
Scholars deepened their understanding of the realities of poverty in America and learned how to improve practices and approaches to better engage low-income individuals and their families regarding health.

**Introduction to eCPR Training, multiple dates**
*virtual event*
AHEC Scholars learned eCPR, which is an educational program developed by the recovery movement designed to teach people to assist others through an emotional crisis with three simple steps: Connecting, emPowering, and Revitalizing.

AHEC Scholars recruitment efforts for Cohort 6 (beginning in August 2023) are well underway. Recruitment is looking promising, with 17 applicants for Cohort 6 already. Applications are due by Friday, August 18, 2023.
Please see our webpage for specifics and share with anyone you think may be interested: <https://med.uc.edu/institutes/area-health-education-center/ahec-scholars>
There is also an AHEC Scholars media kit available for social media use.

UC AHEC served as a partner organization to Southern Hills Career and Technical Center as they hosted their annual Summer Career Academy. Middle and early high school students from our rural counties (Brown, Adams, and Clermont) who are interested in healthcare were invited to explore health careers through hands-on experiences, presentations from local health professionals, and tours of the Southern Hills CTC health careers labs. Students were able to utilize pieces of the Older Adult Training Suit to learn about empathy and compassion for the aging population.

Rural Medicine Experiences at College of Medicine: We are actively recruiting more rural preceptors for our third- and fourth-year medical students’ clinical experiences.

**Additional AHEC Updates**

The AHEC has its first student intern, Kristy Espy from the UC Department of Neurology. She is working on her bachelor’s degree in public health and is with us from May – August.