**UC AHEC Program Activity Report**

**July - September 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**

Attended two Healthcare Pathways Group meetings; maintaining contact with Woodward and Children’s Law Center of NKY on renewed blemished record program and with UC Center for Ethics and Riverview East Academy on integrating ‘moral reasoning’ in the healthcare curriculum there; distributed leftover medical supplies from the Student Run Free Clinic to Woodward and Brown Clermont Adult Career Center; meeting with Southwest Tech Prep strategic advisory committee.

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

Programming for 2023-24 includes a rural overview session, global primary care and a joint program with the UC AHEC Scholars. The Rural Physician Training Pathways met and plans for National Rural Health Day in November were discussed. Each institution is planning to do its own promotion, if any.

**Behavioral Health Workforce**

Four of the five subcommittees are meeting – Public Awareness & Trust, Recruitment & Retention, Data & Research, Public Policy & Advocacy and Care Delivery System (just starting in September.) Using the JobsEQ labor market information tool to inform our behavioral health pipeline, recruitment and retention efforts; created an exit survey for community BH provider HR execs to determine why people are leaving the agencies; edited a Miami University survey of high school guidance and curriculum staff to determine participation of high school students in approved BH certificate programs.

**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.

**AHEC Scholars**
Cohorts 5 continued their programming throughout Summer 2023. Recruitment for Cohort 6 concluded before classes began, and 15 new AHEC Scholars were accepted into the program.

A breakdown of the accepted students is as follows:

* + 9 undergraduate students
		- 4 Health Sciences (Pre-Med)
		- 3 Nursing
		- 1 Allied Health (Pre-OT)
		- 1 Public Health
	+ 6 post-graduate students
		- 3 MD
		- 1 DNP
		- 1 Nutrition
		- 1 Social Work

AHEC Scholars program planning for the Fall 2023 semester has begun and will include several events spanning topics relating to care in rural and urban underserved communities. These are:

* + **Our World: Social Determinants of Health Experience, Nov 2**
	*in-person game + workshop*
	New AHEC Scholars will learn about health equity and the social determinants of health that currently affect economically challenged and minority communities as they make real-time decisions that impact them and their family’s life.
	Returning scholars will have an added twist: they will conduct their own case study on a local rural or medically underserved area through the lens of a specific social determinant of health and help facilitate the discussion as new scholars move through the game.
	+ **Documentary and Discussion Night, TBD**
	*in-person event*
	Partnering with the Rural Health Interest Group from UC COM, our students will view a documentary selected by RHIG + UC AHEC staff, pertaining to their core topic areas. The viewing will be followed by a discussion with a relevant healthcare professional that aligns with the topics from the documentary. Any other interested student groups will be welcome to attend this event.
	+ **Mental Health First Aid, TBD**
	*live in-person or virtual training, TBD*
	Scholars will complete this course that teaches how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training will provide skills they need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis.
	+ **Statewide AHEC Scholars Didactic Programming**
	*virtual trainings and experiences*
	For the first time in Ohio AHEC history, a streamlined Google Classroom comprised of didactic resources and trainings for AHEC Scholars has been developed and will be utilized by UC AHEC.

Taylor O’Shaughnessy met with Amanda Mosley from the Milford campus of Great Oaks on September 6th to discuss goals and plans for the UC AHEC + HOSA partnership project. Taylor will be meeting with Amanda’s HOSA members on Friday, October 6th to discuss their selected competitive events and opportunities for mentorship, training, etc. Any Advisory Committee member willing to lend their time and expertise would be greatly appreciated. AHEC Scholars may also be recruited to help prepare these students for their competitions.

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**

AHEC first student intern, Kristy Espay from the UC Department of Neurology completed the following projects -

* 1. Recruitment of AHEC Scholars Cohort 6
	2. Reviewing and critiquing of statewide didactic AHEC Scholars programming