**UC AHEC Program Activity Report**

**October - December 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; Still working with UC Center for Ethics and Riverview East Academy on integrating ‘moral reasoning’ in the healthcare curriculum there and submitted grant application to The Health Collaborative’s Regional Career Exploration Committee for a UC Health/College of Allied Health Sciences tour/hands-on experience; distributed leftover medical supplies from the Student Run Free Clinic to Woodward and Brown Clermont Adult Career Center; Attended 2 meetings with Southwest Tech Prep strategic advisory committee and served on its interview committee for a UC-based staff person; Attended HealthEXPO; Attended Grant Career/BCCC advisory committee meeting; advised Ohio Association of Community Health Centers on medical assistant pilot program; Attended 2 CPS Strong committee meetings.

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

Co-hosted with the AHEC Scholars a documentary viewing and discussion on “Igniting Compassion” about substance/opioid use disorder. Wright State Family Medicine representative came to talk to the RHIG and Dr. Amy Mechley talked about holistic primary care. UC AHEC posted on FB for National Rural Health Day on November 15. The Rural Physician Training Pathways group met and plans to submit a proposal for the National Rural Health Conference on the data collection efforts of five Ohio medical schools.

**Behavioral Health Workforce**

All of the committees are up and running. The Council was asked to participate in a national learning collaborative on behavioral health workforce hosted by the National Council on Mental Wellness. Our group is one of 35 in this national effort. Still working on the process of interviewing provider human resource staff on why employees leave; recruiting an undergraduate Lindner College of Business student to perform a literature review/capstone project on best practices in employee retention; re-scheduled the Higher Education Learning Collaborative event to February 2024.

**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**
Cohort 5 continued their second year and Cohort 6 began their first year of AHEC Scholars interdisciplinary programming throughout Fall 2023. There are currently 5 students in Cohort 5 and 15 students in Cohort 6.

AHEC Scholars completed events and assignments that spanned topics relating to care in rural and urban underserved communities. These are:

1. **Our World: Social Determinants of Health Experience, Nov 6**
*in-person game + workshop*
New AHEC Scholars learned 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 participated with an added twist: they conducted their own case study on a local rural or medically underserved area through the lens of a specific social determinant of health. They aided Our World staff in facilitating the game and teaching Cohort 6 students what they have learned in the 2 years of this program combined.
2. **“Igniting Compassion” Documentary and Discussion Night, Nov 9**
*in-person event*
Partnering with the Rural Health Interest Group from UC COM, our joint collective students viewed a documentary called "Igniting Compassion” which was centered around the opioid crisis affecting those in Cleveland, Ohio. The viewing was followed by a discussion with Dr. William E. Hablitzel of Adams County Public Health. Dr. Hablitzel shared with the students his experiences of practicing against the backdrop of the opioid crisis in Adams County, and shared his thoughts on what may help start to solve this massive problem in rural areas.
3. **Making Sense of Mental Health Course, Dec 1**
*virtual training*
Scholars have completed this certificate-based course that in which they learned about how key perspectives in the healthcare field have made sense of mental health problems. By directly relating key perspectives to a corresponding case study, they reflected on how the medical perspective, psychological perspective, and social need perspective come together to make sense of mental ill-health.

**Milford HOSA Partnership**

The UC AHEC and Milford HOSA Partnership is officially underway. Taylor has been meeting with the students each Tuesday and Thursday, and will continue doing so until January 15th, 2024, to prepare for the Regional HOSA Conference at Grant Career Center. Students who are competing have a handful of specific needs.

**Our Wish List**

* + 1. Locations/personnel:
			1. For 3 students competing in [Clinical Laboratory Sciences](https://hosa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/23-24-CLS-Final.pdf) to shadow/practice skills
			2. For 2 students competing in [Physical Therapy](https://hosa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/23-24-PT-FinalSept15.pdf) to shadow/practice skills
			3. For 2 students competing in [Forensic Science](https://hosa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/23-24-FS-Final.pdf) to shadow/practice skills
			4. For 1 student competing in [Nursing Assisting](https://hosa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/23-24-NA-final-Vs-2.pdf) to shadow/practice skills
			5. For 1 student competing in [Clinical Nursing](https://hosa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/23-24-CN-Final.pdf) to shadow/practice skills
			6. For 1 student competing in [Pharmacy Science](https://hosa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/23-24-RX-Science-Final.pdf) to shadow/practice skills
		2. Career prep resources:
			1. Summer experiences
			2. Internships
			3. Volunteering
			4. Job Shadowing

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.