AHEC Signature Programs — Statewide

Community Health Internship Program
The AHEC summer internship program provides hands-on learning opportunities for students and assistance to local health departments, community health centers, tribal health centers, and community service agencies to address a variety of public health issues. Programs in each AHEC region across the state are somewhat different, but each has at its core a partnership with a local site to develop projects and provide mentoring for health professions students interested in an intensive summer experience in community health. Interns receive a stipend for the full-time placement, for 8 weeks during June and July.

• Milwaukee program: Since 2000, over 425 interns were placed in the Milwaukee area.
• Statewide program: Since 2002, over 420 interns were placed across the state.

Wisconsin Express
Wisconsin Express is a one-week cultural immersion experience designed to give health professions students the opportunity to study the diverse local and regional healthcare resources and challenges in Wisconsin. Students come together in interprofessional small groups of 6-10, and spend the week exploring, discussing, and reflecting on the issues at their regional site, guided by a local site coordinator. Each year, AHEC matches about 100 students from across the state into one of the 12 regional sites for Wisconsin Express.

Health Careers Summer Camps
Our unique camp is a collaboration of Wisconsin AHEC regional centers, local colleges, technical schools/colleges, and area healthcare practitioners. These 5-day summer camps are open to any high school student living in the counties served by the regional AHEC center sponsoring the camp. Hands-on activities are led by health profession students, instructors and health care professionals. Diversity awareness and leadership skill training are also a part of the camp experience. For summer 2015, we offered 6 overnight camps, each with about 20 students: Fox Valley (Oshkosh); Lakeshore (Manitowoc); La Crosse, Platteville, Madison; North Central WI / Marshfield Clinic (Stevens Point).

Interprofessional Healthcare Case Competition
Teams of college students from all regions of the state compete in this annual event, which invites health professions students to analyze a complex patient case and develop recommendations for interprofessional practices and system-level initiatives designed to result in better outcomes. Top teams (a total of about 50 students) are invited to present their case analysis in the Dells at a statewide competition event each January.

Primary Care Clerkship – Community Projects
With support from AHEC, third-year medical school students engage in community-based service projects. Community partners located throughout the state are identified by AHEC staff. The types of projects include: health careers mentoring, health education in school or community settings, enhancing access to health care, or ongoing health initiatives. Each medical student is placed in one of the selected community settings and provides a service to fill a need identified by the community partner. Medical students (175 per year) observe health disparities for specific populations and identify public health topics, and gain insights and skills that are important to future patient care.