Wisconsin AHEC Programs and Services Wisconsin Congressional District 2

The Wisconsin AHEC system improves the supply, distribution, diversity, and quality of health care professionals — improving access to health care in the state’s rural and underserved areas.

FEATURED PROGRAM:
AHEC Community Engagement Project Placements during the Primary Care Clerkship (PCC)

These service-learning projects occur statewide; of the 180 projects/year, 60 were implemented in South Central Wisconsin during 2012-13.

In each region, an AHEC staff member coordinates local partnerships and project placements for medical students to provide meaningful service during the 8-week Primary Care Clerkship (a required course in the third year of medical school).

In 2012-13, these Community Engagement Projects built on the success of a pilot program launched the previous year. This year, we:

- In total matched 180 PCC students to projects, with 60 projects in the South Central region, each requiring at least 24 work hours on site.
- Expanded the network of partnering host sites.
- Established ways that our students’ skills and knowledge could be applied to achieve the goals articulated by the local community.
- Identified and assessed important learning outcomes for the medical students.
- Made measurable progress on initiatives to improve public health in the local communities.

Throughout the year, AHEC program staff recruited new host sites (including schools, non-profit organizations, libraries, and others). We worked collaboratively with community leaders to design suitable projects. Selected partners in Congressional District 2 include:

- Dane County Parent Council / Head Start
- Dane County Literacy Network “English for Health” classes
- Dryhootch—Madison (Veterans health)
- Goodman South Madison Branch Library
- Reedsburg Area Medical Clinic / Webb Middle School “Club Scrub”
- Community Action Coalition for South Central WI: Community Garden placements, including at Dept. of Corrections Day Report Center
- Mazomanie/Black Earth Community Garden
- Sauk Prairie Senior Center
- Centro Hispano (fishing club nutrition project)
- League of Women Voters WI (health policy)
- HealthNet (patient education activities in the Janesville/Beloit area)
- Public Health Madison Dane County—Refugee Immunization Program
- Waunakee High School (heroin abuse prevention project)

ADDITIONAL AHEC PROGRAMS in the South Central Wisconsin AHEC Region

Wisconsin Express. This week-long immersion program provides undergraduate and graduate students a unique opportunity to experience Wisconsin's diverse communities and cultures, while exploring health care delivery in medically underserved areas. Admission is highly competitive; participants learn with and from students in other health profession disciplines. In the South Central region, the Wisconsin Express program is hosted in Janesville, Beloit, and Rock County.

Summer Health Careers Camp. Since 2001, over 400 high school students from the south central region, have attended this camp.

Presentations. Health Careers Exploration presentations have been conducted at high schools. Working in partnership with local teachers and our community partners at DryHootch (veterans) and Home Health United (home health care), in 2012-13 AHEC staff developed and launched a new presentation about the topic of “Vulnerable Populations.”