AHEC Activities in Congressional Districts 3 & 7
Recruitment, training, and retention of the health care workforce, leading to healthier people and prospering communities

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 PROGRAMS:
Hmong Leadership Dance Group
Sponsored by North Central AHEC

The purpose of the Hmong Leadership Dance Group is to encourage Hmong youth to be more independent, safe, and healthy at a young age. The youth learn many skills:

- Courage to speak up for self
- Leadership to take part in community and understand culture differences
- Education about careers, goals, colleges, jobs, etc.
- Accomplish a goal
- Respect for self, others, and relationships
- Coping mechanisms for emotions, stress and anxiety
- Healthy living

The Leadership Dance Group started back in 2009. We currently have 40-50 youth participating. The Leadership Dance Group is held after school at the Wausau YMCA every Friday, 3-5 p.m. The program is free of charge to youth who wish to participate.

Community Health Internship Program
Placements in North Central AHEC region during summer 2011 included:

- **Chippewa County Dept. of Public Health:** Promoting A Breastfeeding-Friendly Chippewa County Community
- **Pepin County Health Dept.:** Addressing Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse
- **Pepin County Health Dept.:** Community Garden Project
- **Taylor County Health Dept.:** Healthier Choices in Taylor County—focus on food offered at concession stands, fundraisers, and restaurants
- **Wood County Health Dept.:** Healthy and Safe Wood County—including “Tailgate Transformation” at Wisconsin Rapids Rafters semi-pro baseball games; “Safety Camp” for kindergartners; and additional nutrition and physical activity initiatives.

The statewide CHIP (Community Health Internship Program) coordinated by Wisconsin AHEC places college students in local communities for 8 weeks of full-time work. Each placement has at its core a partnership with local health departments to develop and implement research projects and provide mentoring for health professions students interested in an intensive summer experience in community health.

After completing their CHIP internship, students have commented that this experience was a major influence in helping them to understand the role and importance of public health, and inspiring them to pursue a career serving rural or underserved communities.