AHEC Activities in Congressional Districts 7 & 8
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 HIGHLIGHTS:
Promoting health care careers for students

In the past year, NH staffer Larry Bergum has delivered health careers presentations for more than 1,500 middle school and high school students, including some 250 Native American youth, at 28 area schools. Larry has also teamed up with a GLITC staff member for delivering health care recruiting presentations in schools with a high concentration of Native American students.

Larry Bergum was the prime mover for establishing the initial HOSA chapter in the NH region at Eagle River’s Northland Pines High School in 2013.

Increasing diversity in the healthcare workforce

During early 2014, Larry Bergum is teaming up with Kara Schurman of GLITC to deliver a series of six presentations to classes of Native American students in Lac du Flambeau schools. Larry will be advising the students about researching health care careers, academic prerequisites, employability skills, and developing a career portfolio. Kara will recount her personal story as a young, native woman who graduate from college and followed a successful career path.

Community-based programs for health professions students

NH staff members routinely provide support for third-year and fourth-year medical students during their community rotations.

In 2013 NH added a second Wisconsin Express site in Keshena. Combined with our already well-established Wisconsin Express location in Rhinelander, the Keshena site now enables NH to offer the weeklong cultural immersion experience to as many as 18 Wisconsin Express students.

Continuing education for health care professionals

NH is a key sponsor and supporter of the Wisconsin Public Health Association initiative “Wisconsin Dental Hygienists Stepping Forward” for informing, professionally developing, and organizing dental hygienists with the ultimate aim of improving access to oral health services for underserved populations.

NH is helping to sponsor, plan, and participate in the following CE events in 2014:

- Long Term Caregivers Conference (Rhineland, February 14)
- Mental Health Summit (Minocqua, May 9)
- Affordable Care Act training for health care providers at various sites in Northern Wisconsin

Over the past two years NH partnered with Northwest AHEC for delivering a series of presentations to groups of health care providers on the topic of veterans mental health.

Community engagement by NH staff

NH staff members are involved in the following groups around the region:

- Mental Health Interagency Council (Rhineland)
- Northern Health Center Board of Directors (Lakewood)
- Northern Wisconsin Long Term Care Workforce Network (Rhineland)
- Menominee county Engagement Committee (Keshena)
- Bay Area Medical Center, Patient Education Committee (Marinette)
- Northeast Wisconsin Literacy

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