AHEC Programs and Services in Wisconsin Congressional Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6

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:

Youth Health Service Corps

South Central Wisconsin AHEC provides staff and funding to this program.

For the past three school years, South Central Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (SCAHEC) implemented the Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) program as a way to begin preparing high school students in Madison, McFarland and Beloit interested in health care careers and serving their communities. Through YHSC, students discover career opportunities and complete a 50-hour service learning project in their community. Each of the 6 modules contains numerous hands-on activities designed to prepare students to work with underserved populations in health care settings. The modules offer a structured curriculum with pre-and-post tests. Students in YHSC become certified in CPR and in the use of Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs).

How is YHSC Successful?

- Increases matriculation into health professions training programs
- Increases student sense of civic responsibility
- Increases interest in working with medically underserved populations
- Increases student academic performance and graduation rates
- Assists high school educators with resources to do a more effective job of teaching and advising students about health care careers

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 SCAHEC 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 SCAHEC region and the former Southwest Wisconsin AHEC region, have attended this camp.

Presentations. Health Careers Exploration presentations have been conducted at high schools.

Health Literacy. SCAHEC partnered with Wisconsin Literacy to develop health literacy tools for health care providers and health literacy curriculum for future health care providers.