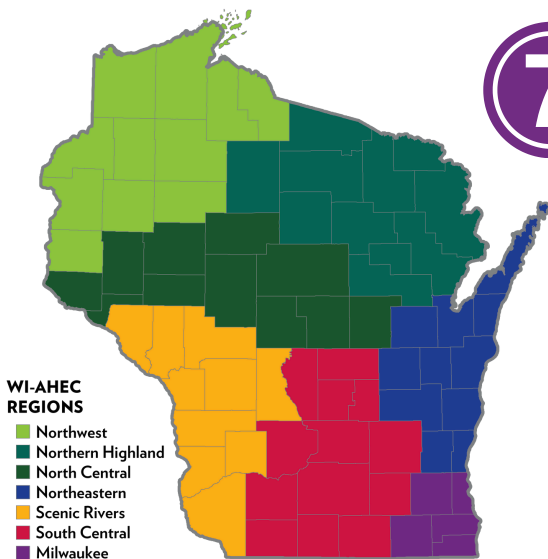




Since 1991, Wisconsin AHEC has brought the Wisconsin Idea to life by partnering with academic institutions and community organizations to deliver community-based education and training. These programs support learners along their health career pathways, strengthen Wisconsin's health workforce, and improve care—especially in rural and underserved communities across all 72 counties.



7

Regional
AHEC
Centers



8,700+
learners



30+
programs



High School Learners: Enrichment programs reaching 7,096 high school students, fostering awareness and interest in health careers.



College Learners: Community-based, interprofessional learning experiences to 1,071 pre-health and health professions students.



Health Professionals: Professional development and continuing education to 539 practicing health professionals.



Demographics

Reaching learners from rural and lower-resourced backgrounds whose lived experiences reflect the populations and communities we serve.

High School & College Learner Profile

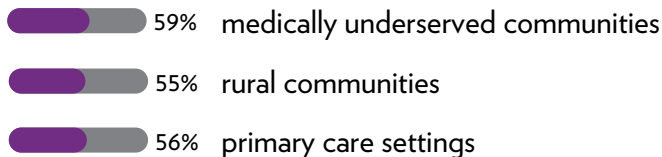
- Identified as coming from a rural community
- Identified as lower-resourced background



Distribution

Supporting pre-health and health professions students, as well as professionals in training who support or serve rural and underserved communities.

323 Pre-health and Health Profession Learner Training Sites*



539 Practicing Health Professional Participant Employment Sites in Wisconsin*

- 28% in medically underserved communities
- 29% in rural communities
- 21% primary care settings

**Categories are not mutually exclusive.*



Development

Offering innovative education and training programs focused on preparing a health workforce for high-quality care in a changing healthcare system.



Curricular Core Topic Areas

- interprofessional education
- behavioral health integration
- social determinants of health
- cultural competency
- practice transformation
- current and emerging health issues
- virtual learning and telehealth
- supporting health professionals



**Trained 94
Community Health
Workers**



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Area Health Education Centers

 ahec.wisc.edu

2024-25 Health Workforce Collaborations & Wins

Featured Academic Partnerships Advancing Health Careers



UW SMPH MD students deliver Prescription for a Healthy You at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northwoods - Antigo Teen Center

Our AHEC Centers support UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) MD students—including those in the Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine program and Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health track—with their Community Health Engagement Projects, ranging from health career exploration in high schools to health education in senior centers. This year, we also supported applied practice experiences for MPH students from UW SMPH and UW-Milwaukee.

North Central AHEC leads the Advocates in Medicine Pathway, a statewide pre-med program for rural and under-resourced students, supported by the Wisconsin Partnership Program and partners at MCW-Central Wisconsin and UW-Stevens Point. We also support UW SMPH's Rural and Urban Scholars in Community Health program with summer internships and community health immersion experiences. Together, these programs strengthen the pipeline to health profession degrees.

Featured Health Workforce Development Partnerships



In 2025, Milwaukee AHEC expanded its statewide Community Health Worker training by launching a Spanish-language version and introducing a Registered Apprenticeship pathway. A Youth Apprenticeship pathway is under development. These efforts were supported by the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment and partnerships with United Way of Wisconsin, Great Rivers United Way, Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

In collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, and Wisconsin Office of Rural Health, we hosted webinars to raise awareness of loan assistance and scholarship programs that help reduce educational debt and support recruitment and retention of health professionals.



In partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, we launched a statewide initiative to boost high school male engagement in health careers. Using data analysis, literature review, and focus groups with students and educators, we created a toolkit featuring student-driven insights and evidence-based strategies for outreach and engagement. dpi.wi.gov/hs/health-careers-engagement-toolkit

We began a new partnership with the Center for Aging Research and Education (CARE) at UW-Madison School of Nursing to support recruitment and logistics for CARE U trainings, which expand training opportunities for direct care staff working with older adults. Our first workshop was hosted at Northwood Technical College in Rice Lake.



Wisconsin AHEC Earns State and National Recognition

In 2025, Wisconsin AHEC was honored with two prestigious awards: the Eugene S. Mayer Program of Excellence Award at the National AHEC Conference and the Caduceus Award at the Wisconsin HOSA State Leadership Conference. These awards recognize our leadership in building strong university-community partnerships, expanding health career pathways, and improving access to care across Wisconsin.

We're proud of these achievements and grateful to our academic and community health partners who make this work possible!



Members of the Wisconsin AHEC team at the National AHEC Conference in Lexington, KY



WISCONSIN AHEC

Area Health Education Centers

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2024-25 AHEC Scholars Program Snapshot



AHEC Scholars is a nationwide, two-year program that enriches the training of health profession students through interprofessional and community-based training experiences. Wisconsin AHEC Scholars gain insight into health challenges and contexts of rural and underserved communities in Wisconsin, build lasting professional connections, and receive a stipend to help offset general living expenses.



Cohort of
234
AHEC Scholars

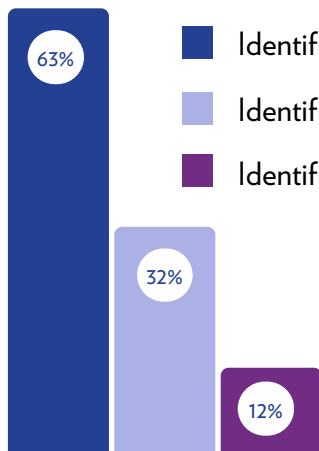


Coming from
26
Colleges & Universities



Representing
9
Health Disciplines

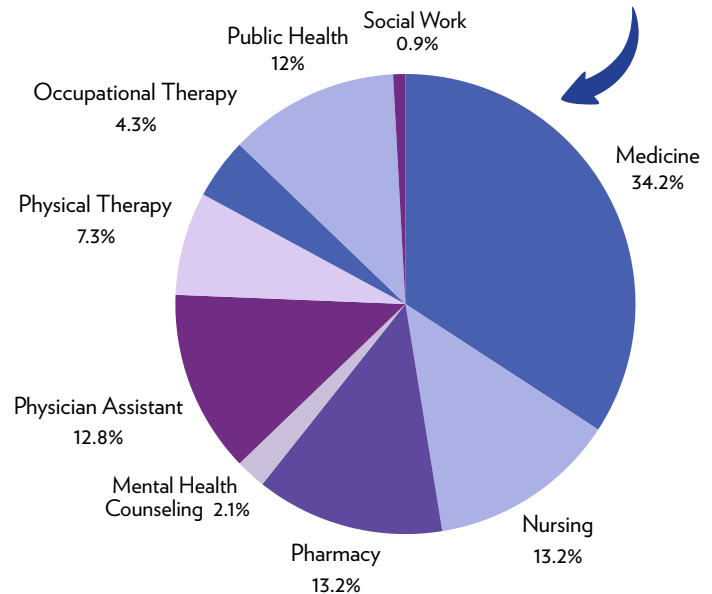
AHEC Scholars Profile



- Identified as coming from a rural community
- Identified as lower-resourced background
- Identified as a first generation college student



5
U.S. National
Guard or Veteran



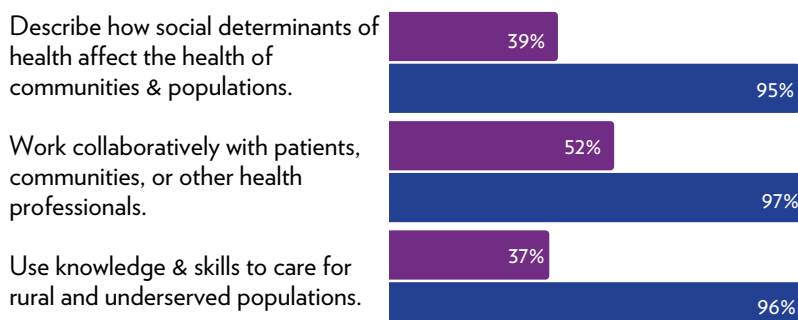
16
Community Health
Immersion Options



**Flexible &
Customizable
Learning**

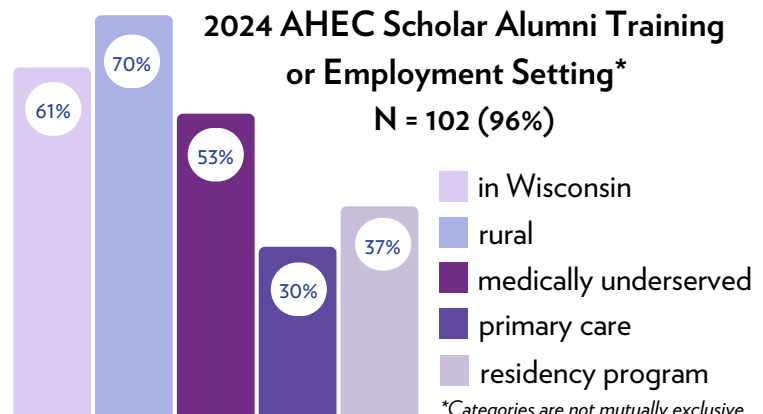
"The AHEC [Scholars] program has played a pivotal role in shaping me into a more culturally competent physician, an impact that will extend to the communities I serve for decades to come. I am proud to carry this training into my future residency and professional practice, where it will directly benefit patients, the people of Wisconsin. The program's flexibility and variety of training opportunities were instrumental in helping me achieve both my personal and professional goals. I especially appreciated the optional, self-directed learning resources available on the AHEC website. The virtual immersion component was particularly valuable, as it allowed me to engage with the material on my own schedule amidst the demands of clinical rotations and studying." 2025 MD AHEC Scholar Graduate

Selected Learning Outcomes **BEFORE** and **AFTER** Completing our AHEC Scholars Program



2024 AHEC Scholar Alumni Training or Employment Setting*

N = 102 (96%)



*Categories are not mutually exclusive.



WISCONSIN AHEC

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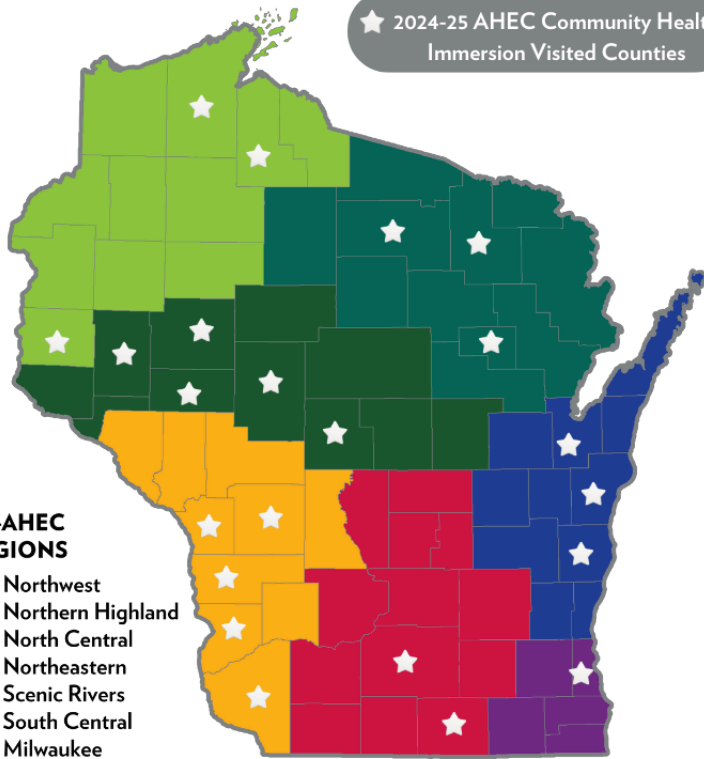
2024-25 Community Health Immersion Program Snapshot



Since the mid-1990s, the AHEC Community Health Immersion has connected pre-health college and health professions students with Wisconsin's varied communities and cultures. Students explore health care delivery and public health statewide. Now a key part of our AHEC Scholars program, we also welcome pre-health college students outside the program to participate in sessions as space permits.

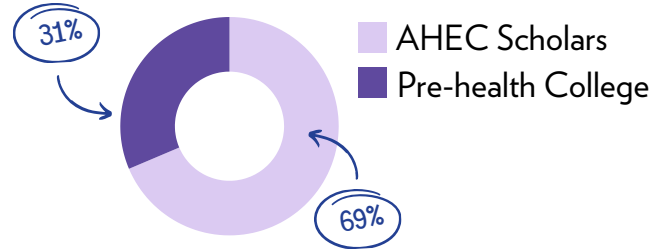
WI-AHEC REGIONS

- Northwest
- Northern Highland
- North Central
- Northeastern
- Scenic Rivers
- South Central
- Milwaukee



★ 2024-25 AHEC Community Health Immersion Visited Counties

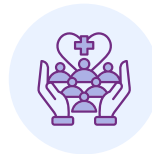
341 Community Health Immersion Learners



16 Community Health Immersion Options

- ☒ In-person
- ☒ Virtual live
- ☒ Virtual on-demand

Central Themes and Focus Areas



- Behavioral Health & Substance Use
- Cultural & Community Health
- Access & Equity in Health Care
- Holistic & Alternative Approaches
- Aging & Gerontology

WISCONSIN OFFICE OF

Rural Health

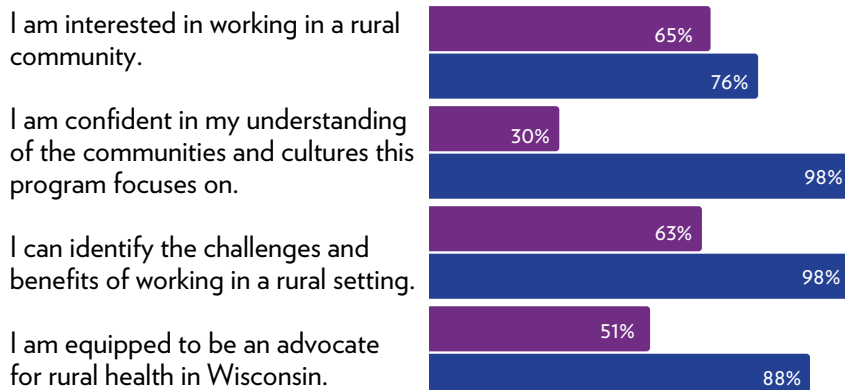


Wisconsin Medical Society
FOUNDATION

Featured Community Health Immersions

Thanks to support from the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health (WORH) and Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation, five of this year's Community Health Immersions highlighted rural and tribal clinical settings, sparking inspiration among participants to pursue meaningful work in small-town communities.

Learning Outcomes **BEFORE** and **AFTER** Completing WORH-sponsored Community Health Immersions



Community Health Immersion in Ashland & Bayfield Counties

"It's one thing to sit and learn about the social determinants of health and barriers that people living in rural communities might face when it comes to healthcare. But being able to see and hear about those firsthand in a rural community was incredible."



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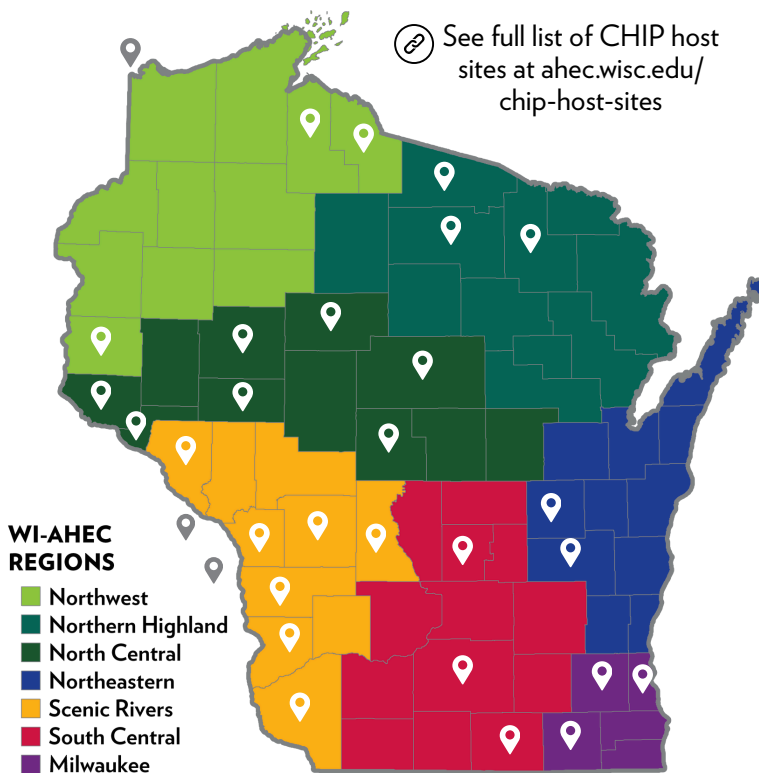
2024-25 Community Health Internship Program Snapshot



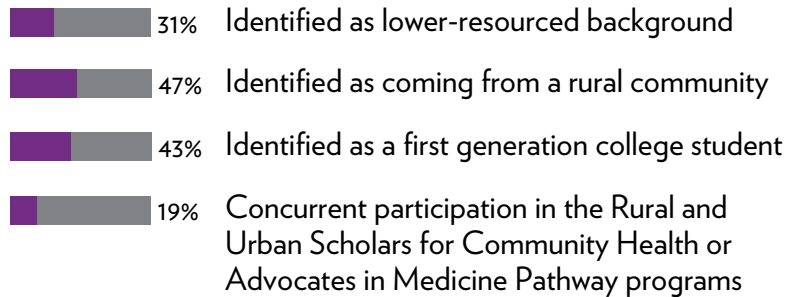
The Community Health Internship Program (CHIP) is an 8-week summer experience that places college students with local health departments, community health centers, and service organizations across Wisconsin. CHIP interns support host site projects, engage in interprofessional learning of key public health topics, and receive a stipend to help cover living expenses.

78 CHIP Host Sites across 31 Counties in Wisconsin & Minnesota

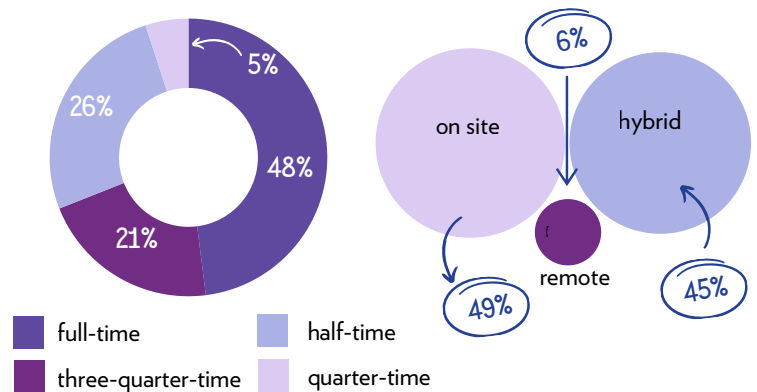
See full list of CHIP host sites at ahec.wisc.edu/chip-host-sites



91 CHIP Interns from 29 Colleges & Universities



CHIP Intern Position Types & Arrangements



CHIP Host Site Outcomes



65% of participating host sites located in rural or medically underserved areas



95% of host site mentors indicated a positive overall experience

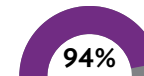
"It was a great opportunity to introduce a student to local community partners with whom they hope to work with in their future career. The student helped our team advance our project work that will continue to serve our community substance misuse coalition. We appreciated a fresh perspective and skill set."

"Contributing to the next generation of the public health workforce is important to our agency and it helps us move forward sustainable projects staff don't have enough time to start."

CHIP Intern Outcomes



Indicated growth as a professional as a result of their CHIP experience



Would recommend CHIP to other pre-health and health profession students

"I really appreciated the opportunity to work directly with a community-based organization and apply what I've learned in a real-world setting. CHIP offered a supportive environment with clear guidance, yet also gave me the space to be creative and take initiative. I also enjoyed learning from professionals who are deeply engaged in addressing health disparities; it was both inspiring and grounding."

"I really enjoyed the chance to travel somewhere new, to a rural community that was able to teach me a lot. My perspective has changed, my relationships have grown, and my world expanded."



WISCONSIN AHEC

Area Health Education Centers

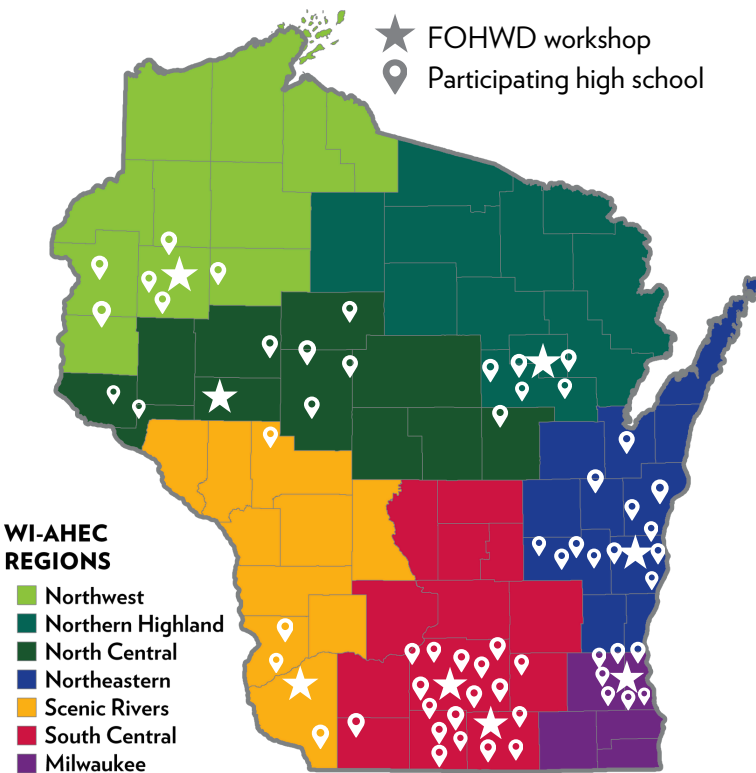
ahec.wisc.edu

2024-25 Future Oral Health Workforce Day Snapshot



Future Oral Health Workforce Day (FOHWD) is a one-day workshop held in each AHEC region, designed to spark interest in oral health careers among high school students. Learners engage in hands-on activities and connect with practicing and aspiring oral health professionals, including dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and dental lab technicians.

FOHWD Workshop & School Participation Map



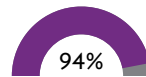
63% of high schools were located in a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)

167 High School Learners from 59 High Schools

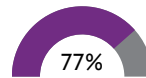
33% Identified as lower-resourced background

60% Identified as coming from a rural community

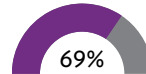
Post-workshop High School Learner Outcomes



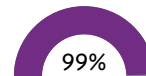
Indicated a high or very high increased understanding of oral health careers



Indicated a high or very high increased understanding of the next steps to work in an oral health career



Indicated they were as interested in or more interested in working in an oral health career



Would recommend FOHWD to their friend

"I got to learn more about dental careers by visiting an actual dental facility and I was able to talk to real dental health workers."

"I enjoyed getting to experience hands-on activities to get a proper feel about the careers in the dental field so that I know if I would like to pursue this career."

Community & Academic Partners



DELTA DENTAL OF WISCONSIN FOUNDATION

Thanks to support from the Delta Dental of Wisconsin Foundation, we engaged more rural students in dental HPSAs—strengthening the future oral health workforce through provider-led learning events.



96% of presenters would participate again or recommend to a colleague



84% of presenters are interested in further engagement with students

- Apex Dental Laboratory Group
- Children's Health Alliance of WI
- Chippewa Valley Technical College
- Fennimore Smiles of LDA
- ForwardDental Franklin
- Gentle Dental Care
- Goodman Community Center
- Green Valley Dental Care
- HealthNet of Rock County, Inc.
- Lakeshore Community Health Care
- Lancaster Dental Associates
- Marquette University
- Menominee Tribal Clinic
- Menomonie Street Dental, LLC
- Midwest Dental
- Milwaukee Area Technical College
- NorthLakes Community Clinic
- Northwood Technical College
- Purdy Family Dentistry
- River Place Dental
- River Smiles Dental
- Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers
- Southwest Technical College
- Waterloo Heights Dental
- WI Dept of Health Services

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