PROFILE: Jennifer Weitzel
By Megan Hakes, Statewide Communications Assistant

MADISON— As a public health nurse for the Public Health Department of Madison & Dane County, Wisconsin native Jennifer Weitzel has served as a mentor to students participating in Wisconsin AHEC’s Community Health Internship Program since she began at the health department in 2005.

“We’re very fortunate in Dane County because we’re a large and well-resourced health department so we can provide a wide range of experiences to our interns,” Weitzel said. CHIP interns benefit from the many multidisciplinary professionals working in the department because they get to work on a wide range of projects. Last summer, one intern researched the effects of climate change on health, another researched the relation between the juvenile justice system and mental health, and a third evaluated a local alcohol ordinance.

PROFILE: Greg Nycz
By Megan Hakes, Statewide Communications Assistant

MARSHFIELD— When Wisconsin AHEC was established in 1990, Dr. Richard Leer encouraged Greg Nycz, then Director of Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc., to get involved. Nycz joined the Northern AHEC board as the treasurer and was actively involved with AHEC for more than nine years. Recently, he received the 2014 Marshfield Clinic Heritage Award in recognition of his contributions to healthcare equity in Wisconsin. Nycz credits his time with AHEC for many of his accomplishments.

“If I wouldn’t have been involved with AHEC, I wouldn’t have gotten involved with some of the things I did and I wouldn’t have the appreciation I have today for the importance of education in meeting access issues,” Nycz said. “My engagement with AHEC led to meeting a lot of friends and colleagues and to a whole new world of health education that I had not delved into up to that point in my career.
“CHIP interns are always cream of the crop,” Weitzel said. “They really bring different perspectives, positive energy and great skills to the department.” Often, the interns are so skilled that they complete their work quickly and work on additional tasks and projects they were not recruited for. The additional tasks that CHIP interns eagerly take on help to emphasize the comprehensive nature of public health, a lesson staff at the health department prioritize teaching.

“Often students and interns come in with preconceived ideas about what public health is and we try to expand the breadth and depth of their understanding of all the things that we do, the foundation of which is really based on social justice and health equity.” To do so, they engage their interns in dialogue, activities and experiences such as shadowing through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.

Weitzel and her colleagues at the health department work to increase their interns’ understanding of health inequities through an online curriculum called the “Roots of Health Inequity” presented by the National Association of County and City Public Health Officials. The program provides different scenarios and many issues such as gender inequities, race, immigration and class. Weitzel then provides opportunities for group discussion about how interns can apply what they learn through the program to the work they do or observe at the health department.

Weitzel herself is a great resource for students to talk to about health inequity because in addition to her full-time position at the health department, she is the founder and current chair of Health Ministries for Haiti, an organization that partners with two Haitian organizations to help build infrastructure to address health in Haiti, and a part-time instructor at Edgewood College, where she teaches a Population Health and Health Policy graduate nursing class.

She refers students looking for opportunities to get hands on experience to the CHIP program and encourages her colleagues at other health departments to host CHIP interns. “CHIP is so valuable and beneficial to both interns and agencies,” Weitzel said. “All around, I think it’s a really great foray into public health for new professionals.”

“It was particularly gratifying to me that the Master of Ceremonies for the Heritage Award and the person who presented the award to me was Dr. Leer, the individual who encouraged me to get involved with AHEC.”

Nyicz’s work on healthcare equity dates back to early 1970’s, when he worked with Marshfield Clinic leaders to expand access through the Greater Marshfield Community Health Plan. Leaders of the plan wanted to ensure that everyone who desired to participate in the community health plan could do so. They were challenged by getting low-income people enrolled and in response “decided to take the best practices of a community health center and the best practices of an HMO and blend those together so that you have low-income people paying a sliding fee, but on a budgetable monthly payment,” Nyicz said. “Then, when they go to get services they need they have no time of service financial barrier.” Nyicz was also involved in helping the health plan become the first Medicaid HMO in Wisconsin.

In the early 2000’s, the Family Health Center Board of Directors recognized the great need for dental care for the uninsured and disabled populations in Wisconsin. Nyicz met with the leadership team at the Marshfield Clinic and they agreed that the situation constituted a public health emergency. Nyicz challenged the clinic, “What would a health care leader do?”

Responding to the public health emergency was not an easy task, but “AHEC really prepared me for some of the challenges we took on in expanding dental access to patients on Medicaid and our uninsured, low-income patients who couldn’t find access to dental care,” Nyicz said.

The Family Health Center of Marshfield opened its first dental clinic in temporary quarters in November 2002 with a new facility opening in July 2003 in Ladysmith. In the first year they served patients from 44 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties. A second center was opened in Chippewa Falls in 2007. This center offered care to the disabled, many of whom need special accommodations such as wheelchair lifts or to be in a hospital setting for dentistry work. Staff at the Family Health Center of Marshfield then committed to providing dental care for people with disabilities at all future dental clinics.

Under Nyicz’s leadership, the Family Health Center of Marshfield opened a third dental clinic in Park Falls in 2008. In the first 15 months the Park Falls clinic was open, it saw over a 1,000 people from communities east of Park Falls like Rhinelander and Eagle River. Nyicz estimates that based on the number of visits those patients had, they traveled a collective 412,000 miles to get care.

After opening three clinics, Nyicz wanted to continue to expand by leveraging resources made available to the USDA for rural capital loans under the American

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Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Working with Terri Kleutsch, the administrator of the growing dental clinic system, Nycz wanted clinics in Neillsville, Medford, marshfield and Rice Lake. Terri met with her team and they said three is pushing the envelope, four is not possible,“ Nycz recalled. “I told her if we don’t do four clinics, 5,000 people won’t get care. Terri went back and met with her team and said ‘we’ll do it.’” “It is difficult to express how proud I was of Terri and her team, the commitment and the sacrifice and the difference it made for thousands of people in need” Nycz said.

All four clinics opened within 13 months of each other.

As of March 2015, the family health center has opened nine dental clinics and staff members are in the process of planning a tenth. Each clinic was built for at least five dentists and five dental hygienists. The centers have seen more than 113,000 unique people from every county in the Wisconsin and people from 78 percent of Wisconsin zip codes.

“We have a ‘Leave no one behind’ model,” Nycz said. “It’s about taking care of the uninsured and low-income, it’s about taking care of patients with HIV/AIDS or patients with complex medical conditions or patients with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Everybody deserves to have good oral health.”

Nycz believes education is necessary to ensure everyone can have good oral health. “The AHEC program instilled in me a much deeper appreciation for the critical role that education plays in securing the workforce we need to deliver services and expand access.”

Through his involvement with the Wisconsin Partnership Program, (Nycz was nominated by Suzanne Matthews) Nycz encouraged the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) to commit to make curriculum modifications so future UW-Madison SMPH graduates have a more comprehensive understanding of oral health. Nycz believes this change will encourage students to raise awareness of the importance of good oral health with their future patients.

Nycz’s future plans extend beyond oral health to behavioral health and substance abuse disorders. “For the past five or six years we have been interested in seeing how the family health center can work within the larger Marshfield Clinic system to do something about the behavioral health access shortcomings in the region,” Nycz said. One solution they found was to hire a coordinator who consults with a psychiatrist. “This way, the primary care physician can better manage patients with depression and the psychiatrist, whose time is at a premium, can unlog his or her schedule with folks who could be managed in primary care with the additional team support opening the psychiatrists schedule up for people with greater behavioral health service needs.” Moving forward, Nycz hopes Family Health Center can assist the Marshfield Clinic integrate behavioral health with pediatrics and adult medicine.

Nycz believes AHEC can, and should, help address the growing behavioral health workforce shortcomings. “I think the promise of AHEC going forward is to help better match young people’s interest in going into the health profession with the future workforce needs of our State,” Nycz said. “We have a huge disparity between the need for child psychologists and the number of people available to be hired. I would like to challenge the AHEC program to influence students who are already in medical school to move toward careers that are clearly in high demand now and into the future.”

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**TEACHING: Health Careers Education Courses**

**By: Megan Hakes, Wisconsin AHEC statewide communications assistant**

**Beloit** – Well over 1,000 high school students participated in the 88 presentations South Central Wisconsin AHEC Health Careers Education Consultants Wendy Hinz and Shayna Somers completed between September and December 2014.

They offer several pre-planned courses (see sidebar on the next page) as well as the option for teachers to work with them to build their own course based on suggested topic areas.

Hinz, a retired Middleton High School health sciences occupation teacher, began her position with AHEC a little over two years ago. Somers was a special education teacher for seven years before joining AHEC shortly after Hinz.

“I like the opportunity to energize students about the opportunities out there and where they can fit in,” Hinz said. “A lot of times, students think ‘well if I’m thinking of something in health care, I have to be a nurse or a doctor, and the first thing I tell people is you don’t have to do direct care to work in healthcare.

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*Continued...*
There’s so many opportunities out there. I tell my students, *think about what you love to do and how can you take that and your career interests you have and fit them into healthcare.*” She calls this lighting the lightbulb, as it is often an aha moment for students.

Somers believes this aha moment is powerful because it is received from an outsider. “We provide a different angle, and students are always more receptive to someone coming in,” Somers said. “It’s kind of like having your parents teach you how to do a math equation versus having your math teacher teach you. It’s well-received from a different person. When we come in, it’s a breath of fresh air and students are really receptive to it. It’s a good way to get the information out there.”

The most popular presentation Hinz and Somers offer is “Introduction to Health Careers: More than just doctors and nurses,” which gives students the opportunity to see a breadth of health occupations, explore how their skills and strengths fit into healthcare, and participate in hands-on activities.

Somers most enjoys teaching the vulnerable populations class because of her background in special education. “I think disability awareness is important for kids in general, especially high school students,” Somers said. “When they get to the health fields, it’s very important for them to be aware of vulnerable populations.”

Hinz and Somers most often present to high school health science occupation education courses. According to Hinz, not every state offers such classes so Wisconsin students tend to be more aware of opportunities in health occupations than students in other states. Hinz and Somers also work with medical terminology, sports medicine, CNA and other health classes.

Hinz feels it is important for students to participate in these courses and programs because the goal of high school is to prepare students for the opportunities available after high school and the classes Hinz and Somers offer are a great opportunity for students to do so. It is a good option for teachers because Hinz and Somers give teachers resources, encourage them to get connected with other professionals who have good models, and tell them about valuable conferences to attend.

Hinz and Somers do not do a former evaluation after their healthcare programs due to limited time, but Hinz says she consistently gets thank you notes sent by students, teachers and administration and receives positive feedback from teachers. They work to create an open line of communication with teachers so they can receive suggestions and better adapt their courses.

In addition to the courses listed in the sidebar, Hinz and Somers work with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Global Health Institute and GlobeMed UW-Madison to host an annual High School Global Health Day at UW-Madison. This year, the December event introduced 19 students from Janesville Craig, Johnson Creek, Parkview and Wautoma to global health and used presentations and breakout activities to teach them that global health includes them and Wisconsin.

The Global Health Day “taught kids to think more critically about what is out there, what are the concerns, and how are some of those concerns just as close in our own backyard,” said Hinz. “So when we talk about global health, you don’t just look at it across the pond, it’s right here. You don’t have to go real far to work on things that are concerning and problems that we have.”

Outside of the Global Health Day, Hinz and Somers encourage teachers to have their students look into their communities and find out what are their concerns in their schools, cities, state of Wisconsin and how can they help through global health work.

For more information or to schedule a free presentation, please email Hinz at whinz@scwahec.org or Somers at ssmomers@scwahec.org.

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### 2014-15 Course Offerings

#### Introduction to Health Careers: “More than just doctors and nurses”
Explore health occupations in this dynamic presentation appropriate for students learning about various health careers.

#### Professionalism & Interviewing in the Health Care Industry
This presentation can include one or more sections, depending on audience need/interest.
- Part 1: “What makes you stand out?”
- Part 2: Never underestimate the power of “You”
- Part 3: Interviewing skills workshop

#### “One World” - Global and Public Health
This course illustrates global issues in your own community.

#### Vulnerable Populations
This presentation will help you identify the skills necessary to best serve vulnerable individuals such as the elderly, people with disabilities, veterans, and children.

#### Future Employment Trends in Health Care
This presentation gives you the information necessary to begin making informed decisions about your health career pathway.

#### “Build Your Own” Course
Using selected components of our curriculum, SCWAHEC instructors develop a multimedia presentation that includes hands-on activities and health career information of interest to your students.

#### Leadership Roles and Interprofessional Teams
SCWAHEC presents a case competition activity designed to challenge attitudes about leadership and teamwork, and to develop essential communication skills.
WAUSAU – As the Executive Director of North Central Wisconsin AHEC, Suzanne Matthew, Ph.D, has led more than 600 healthcare providers, educators and executives in training sessions called Dimensions of Diversity. Among other tactics, the trainings are designed to:

- Define and understand the concepts of diversity, culture and cultural competency
- Develop practical applications of the tools of cultural competency
- Understand the importance and relevance of culturally and linguistically appropriate health care
- Understand how culture impacts healthcare delivery, illness, and health
- Develop self-awareness about ourselves and appreciation of how our cultural values, assumptions, and beliefs influence others
- Develop skills to become a more effective cultural competency trainer

“It is imperative that we continually work to understand how diversity and culture influence us as healthcare professionals,” said Matthew. “The Dimensions of Diversity training sessions are an excellent way to do so.”

North Central AHEC offers a variety of options for the training sessions. Fees vary according to the number of participants, length of training and type of organization requesting the training.

The activity is sponsored by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, the Office of Continuing Professional Development in Medicine and Public Health and Northern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center. This activity has been approved for a maximum of 18.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™ and for 1.825 continuing education units (CEUs) or 18.25 hours.

For more information, visit https://sites.google.com/a/nahec-wi.org/dimensionsofdiversity/

MARINETTE – Northern Highland (NH) AHEC is participating in an exciting initiative to get seventh and eighth grade youth interested in careers related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). In 2014, the UW-Stevens Point Continuing Education program launched a series of STEM Exploration Days (STEM Days) that showcase a range of practicing professionals and UW-Stevens Point faculty members who are engaged in STEM careers. STEM Days events, which are scheduled separately for boys and girls, each include exhibits, an inspirational keynote presentation, and three one-hour, hands-on workshops.

NH AHEC is proud that Larry Bergum, NH AHEC Health Career Recruitment Consultant, addressed a STEM Days student group about Health Career Trends on May 1, 2015, at the rustic UW-Stevens Point Treehaven facility in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. Larry joined a roster of distinguished STEM experts who discussed topics such as the declining bat population, blood typing, veterinary careers, meteorology, plant identification, water quality, and wildlife rehabilitation. There was also a personal message delivered from the Dreamflight USA Shuttle Crew, which dramatizes the fact that STEM Days is about bringing students to dream and to realize that “the sky is the limit” for what they can aspire to in their lives!

A key aim of the STEM Days initiative is to excite and inform middle school students about STEM career opportunities at an early stage in their academic careers. So, as these students advance to high school, they will already be aware of the course requirements and other prerequisites for pursuing the STEM-related career of their choice.

On May 1, many middle school students will attend the STEM Exploration Day in Tomahawk, Wisconsin.
NETWORKING: AHEConnect Mentoring Program
By Laura Pettersen, Scenic Rivers AHEC Center Director

CASHTON – Scenic Rivers AHEConnect Mentoring program is up and running! In it’s first few months of operation, five high school students were successfully matched with individual college and professional mentors pursuing and practicing in the field of healthcare that they plan to pursue. This program provides an opportunity to hear from those who have taken the path to a health career, helping the high school student understand the steps involved. This mentoring program creates a sense of “Yes, I can!” for students while furthering their understanding of the rigors of the process. Students and their college and professional mentors are asked to connect twice per school year. This can take place in person, via Skype, on the telephone, or whatever works best for the parties involved. So far, there is positive feedback and lots of interest. You can learn more about AHEConnect at www.scenicriversahec.org

NETWORKING: Wisconsin Community Health Worker Alliance

MILWAUKEE- In partnership with area stakeholders, Milwaukee AHEC helped launch the Wisconsin Community Health Worker Alliance. It was formed to further the developing and growing recognition of CHWs as an emerging resource for Wisconsin, as a strategy to reach vulnerable populations, and to facilitate expansion in deployment of CHWs into the Wisconsin workforce.

Based on previous work, discussions with established CHW Alliances across the country, and the CHW Best Practices Conference this year, the following objectives were proposed for the Wisconsin Community Health Worker Alliance:

- Develop a standardized competency-based curriculum to educate CHWs in Wisconsin
- Provide an educational pathway, career ladder and peer network for CHWs
- Establish professional standards for CHWs that define their role in the clinical and community care system
- Create a sustainable employment market, incorporating CHWs into the health care and human services workforce
- Demonstrate that trained CHWs are effective, and that a CHW’s time is a billable/reimbursable valued service

Goals and Expected Outcomes:

- Improved health care access, quality and cultural competence
- Improved health outcomes
- Increased size and diversity of clinical and human service workforce with CHWs integrated as part of service delivery team
- Reduced cost of care for vulnerable populations in Wisconsin
- Reduced health disparities for racial, ethnic and other groups

Wisconsin like many other states is facing health care challenges related to health care delivery, cost and impact on health outcomes for its most needy residents. As our nation continues to define solutions to our health care challenges, AHEC believes that CHWs in Wisconsin can be a critical part of the solutions, specifically creating healthier communities for all Wisconsin.

For more information please contact Lynette Weathers, lweathers@milahec.org, 414-344-0675

LEARNING: Student Spotlight

CASHTON – Scenic Rivers AHEC has been working with some amazing students over the past year and decided it was time for some recognition. They created a Student Spotlight page on their website featuring a new student every month. This is an area that devotes a little space to talk about the student’s connection with AHEC programs in the past and present as well as a brief biography of their healthcare career interests. Check it out: www.scenicriverahec.org/ahec-programs/alumni/student-highlight”
LEARNING: YHSC Health Career Mixer  
By Dasmond McMillan, YHSC Program Coordinator

MILWAUKEE- At the end of the Fall 2014 semester, the Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) at James Madison Academic Campus (JMAC) had the outstanding opportunity to plan and host their very own Healthcare Career Mixer. Led by Das McMillan, the YHSC Program Coordinator, and Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) Student Ashley Verhasselt, the YHSC members had the chance to plan and implement the event for the entire JMAC student body. The JMAC students and their parents got the opportunity to meet and mingle with the 14 healthcare professionals who came to answer any questions that our students and parents had.

Healthcare professionals like Dr. Linda Meurer from MCW and her husband Dr. John Meurer were in attendance as well as a few medical students, a pharmacist, a biomedical specialist and a paramedic nurse. Alongside many other healthcare experts, they were able to answer the questions that students and their parents had. The event was a huge success and more than 40 JMAC students attended. With this accomplishment under their belts, YHSC is confident they will gain more student interest in the program and health care careers.

YHSC brought in the New Year with service events like MLK Day and Asthma Wellness Day. YHSC members from Riverside University High School and Rufus King IB High School volunteered with Fight Asthma Milwaukee during Asthma Wellness Day toward the end of January. The event brought asthma awareness to Milwaukee’s south side communities. YHSC brought a few physical activities to teach children about exercising with asthma. Toward the end of the event, the children and YHSC members did a zumba dance for the attendees. The children and the YHSC members really enjoyed themselves.

LEARNING: Exploring Health Care in Rusk/Barron County  
By Jackie Pederson, Rusk/Barron County WI Express Coordinator

One of the greatest and most memorable ways to learn something is to experience it hands on. This is exactly what Northwest AHEC provided for high school and college students in 2014. There were three hands on learning experiences in Rusk and Barron County; two for WI Express university students and a health care exploratory program for high school students.

The students participating in the Wisconsin Express program were from UW- Madison the first week and from universities throughout Wisconsin the second week. Throughout each week eight students explored places such as Indianhead Community Action Agency, Rusk and Barron County Public Health, Ladysmith Health Care Academy, Rusk County Memorial Hospital, the Rice Lake Free Clinic, the International High School, Time Out Domestic Abuse Shelter and Nature’s Edge Therapy Center. In addition, students visited the Ladysmith Dental Center, the first in the state to comprehensively address the needs of Medicaid clients. With the assistance of health care community leaders the students also focused on how cultural habits, traditions and poverty impact the health of a community. The students were amazed by how many different roles a single health care provider must assume in rural communities. One student commented, “I thought I had to live in a major city to keep abreast of the latest technology and practices in medicine. Now I see I would have the opportunity for similar experiences but much more diversified because I would be the sole physician assistant providing care for a group of people with such diverse needs. What an opportunity to learn and grow!” Mary, a pre-med student, said “the health care providers in this area really think out of the box in order to deliver adequate health care to their patients; this has been one of the best experiences of my life!”
Another unique component of this WI Express program in Rusk/Barron County was time spent with the Somali population in Barron. Participants had the privilege of visiting Somali homes, a restaurant, a mosque, classrooms for Somali high school students and the Jerome Turkey Store, the Somali’s major source of employment. They interacted with and learned from many in the Somali community. A WI Express student commented “Nasra Xashi, our Somalian work force coordinator, feels the main difference between her culture and ours, is Somalians believe in collectivism, whereas Americans value individualism. Nasra also made a point of saying Somalia’s world values are survival and economic security whereas American’s world values are quality of life and self-expression. From those statements one can easily gather how quintessential understanding ones culture is when providing health care.” Understanding such a cultural difference would be paramount for a health care provider in our area.

A special bonus for the UW- Madison students who participated in the March WI Express week was being able to secure their Global Health Studies certificate.

In June of 2014, NWAHEC offered a Health Career Camp for high school students in an effort to help students determine if a future in a medical field was for them. Emphasis was placed not only the job descriptions and requirements of various health careers but also the skills needed to succeed in a health career such as team cooperation, time management, tolerance, and organizational skills. From the time the campers arrived at the Mt. Senario Center in Ladysmith, group activities such, “Medical Minute to Win it”, were started. Through activities like this learning proved to be fun and engaging. The students learned the importance of team cooperation. In the medical field team work is essential for providing quality care by health care providers.

The campers visited many of the same agencies as the WI-Express students but the emphasis was primarily on the types of careers offered in the health field. They were also exposed to careers in forensic science, chiropractic, emergency medicine and mortuary science. A career in medicine takes dedication and hard work; the students witnessed those qualities in first person when they toured the Sacred Heart hospital in Eau Claire and met the hospital staff. The students even had the opportunity to participate as victims in the Rusk County Disaster Drill which included ambulance and helicopter transports. This event was a highlight for all!

In addition, the students participated a diabetes education forum where they learned of the magnitude of this disease in today’s society and how prevention through lifestyle changes are important.

Another important component of the health career camp was to prepare the students for their college education so the students toured UW- Barron County and WITC campuses. Counselors from these institutions comprehensively explained the steps and timeline the students needed to take to apply and finance their college education. Information on the special application process for pursuing a health career was shared.

This week was a great way for campers to explore possible health careers and learn from people who are in the jobs which they wish to have someday. One camper said, “(The camp) really opened my eyes to many different careers that I never even thought about!”

The three different groups of students had opportunities to experience diversified health care delivery systems and observe the various roles that health providers play in a rural area. During the week the students spent in the program, not only did they expand their knowledge of health care, but they also grew and bonded as a group of young people who are interested in similar futures and aspirations. They participated in service projects where they gave back to the community. NWAHEC made a positive difference has been made in the lives of the students and the communities!
SPECIAL EVENT: Students Compete in statewide healthcare case competition hosted by Wisconsin AHEC
By: Megan Hakes, Wisconsin AHEC statewide communications assistant

Wisconsin AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) System held the second statewide healthcare case competition January 8 – 9, 2015, at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. The nine teams, chosen from 21 that applied, competed for up to a $3,000 first-place cash prize.

The teams, made up of students studying healthcare disciplines from public and private universities across the state, represented all seven Wisconsin AHEC regions with two teams representing Milwaukee AHEC and two teams representing South Central AHEC.

The students were assigned a case study of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease care at a hospital and conducted an analysis of the interprofessional efforts at the hospital and within the community. The teams then presented their findings and recommendations for enhanced collaboration to a panel of judges.

The case competition judges consisted of leaders from various disciplines within Wisconsin healthcare programs. The judges included Laura Scudiere, MPH; Stephanie Stewart PhD, RN; Megan Wittmann RN, MS; Richard J. Dhyanchand MD, MS; and Michael Jacob, MPA.

Concurrent with the case competition, Wisconsin AHEC also hosted an interprofessional resource fair, called an “I.P. Village”, consisting of stations for multiple health professions. The hosts of the I.P. Village stations included registered nurses, physicians, a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, medical interpreter, simulation specialist, genetic counselor, and representatives from the public health, pharmacy and research fields. Touring the I.P. Village and talking with professionals at the stations gave students an opportunity to explore roles and responsibilities through the perspective of different healthcare professionals.

Cash prizes were awarded to the top three teams.

- First place ($3,000) went to a team representing South Central AHEC: P. Chulhi Kang (UW-Madison, medicine), Matthew Shanahan (UW-Madison, medicine), and Ryan Miller (UW-Madison, pharmacy). Patrick McBride was the team advisor.
- The second place ($2,000) team represented Milwaukee AHEC: Bushra Fathima (UW-Milwaukee, medical laboratory scientist), Ahila Na (UW-Milwaukee, bio-chemistry/pre-medicine), Bushra Alsharif (UW-Milwaukee, microbiology/pre-pharmacy), and Camille Lucjak (UW-Milwaukee, registered nurse).
- Third place ($1,000) went to a team representing Scenic Rivers AHEC: Josh McLain (UW-La Crosse, physical therapy), Matthew Zellmer (UW-La Crosse, physical therapy), and Jake Larkin (UW-La Crosse, physician assistant). Michele Thomar was the team advisor.

First-place team: Ryan Miller, Matt Shanahan, and P. Chulhi Kang

Second-place team: Camille Lucjak, Ahila Na, Bushra Alsharif and Bushra Fathima

Third-place team: Matthew Zellmer, Josh McLain, and Jake Larkin

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Mary Bumann, RN, MA, emeritus academic staff from UW-Madison, hosted Applying Case Competition Skills to Future Interprofessional Practice, a reflection session, following the Interprofessional Healthcare Case Competition for the students to discuss their thoughts on participating in the case analysis throughout the fall semester. Bumann’s academic area of expertise is in promoting self and collective efficacy in interprofessional teamwork for practitioners across the spectrum of professions and practice settings. She believes that to reach an effective outcome, every interaction must also include an intention to understand a shared humanity. All of the teams attended this optional meeting and reported constructive feedback on their experiences working with their teammates, which will be valuable in their future healthcare teams and employment settings.

Photo album available through the Wisconsin AHEC Facebook page: http://on.fb.me/1DOTgdY

Mary Bumann’s reflection session: Applying Case Competition Skills to Future Interprofessional Practice

Students’ Comments on the Case Competition

“I liked that his case forced us as professionals to go outside of our comfort zone by communicating with professions other than our own.”

“I liked the competitive aspect of it as well as the real world applicability it has.”

“I liked the relevance of the problem to actual practice.”

“I learned to collaborate with others with different disciplines. Therefore, I will be able to communicate with others with different strengths and disciplines. In addition, I will use the information I gained to understand how we can help improve the health of a community.”

“It was very helpful to be able to use academic knowledge in a real-life scenario and gives awesome practice for professional practice.”

“Since completing the case competition, I have a more open mind, and I consider how people in other professions might approach the same problems. I’m also more cognizant of how my approach affects the jobs of others.”

Students’ Comments on the IP Village

“I liked how it how the process the driven by the students. I was able to ask any questions I wanted and really explore the different professions.”

“I liked the opportunity to speak to professionals that were in smaller health professions like community case managers.”

“I enjoyed getting valuable information about graduate schools and CVs.”

“It was beneficial to understand how my future profession interacted with other professions that I might have not known as well.”

Nine teams and a total of 33 competitors from seven different schools participated in the 2015 IP Healthcare Case Competition.
Wisconsin AHEC recently completed a project to map health service areas in Wisconsin. The primary objective for developing this service area geography is to facilitate local health workforce analysis. The service areas also provide a useful framework for monitoring local program outcomes related to health workforce development and population health status.

Each of the 135 service areas consists of a hub city and neighboring municipalities. With some exceptions (in northern Wisconsin and border communities) each service area has a population of at least 10,000, with most of the service area population within 30 minutes travel time of the hub city. Service areas are further identified by urban or rural type using 2010 U.S. Census data on urban density. The Census defines an Urbanized Area (UA) as a densely developed territory of 50,000 people or more, and an Urban Cluster (UC) as a densely developed territory of at least 2,500 but less than 50,000 people. The UA and UC population data was used to classify Wisconsin Health Service Areas as “Metro” (more than 50% of the population in UAs), “Urban” (less than 50% UA but more than 60% in UAs or UCs), “Mixed” (40% to 60% living in UAs and UCs), and “Rural (less than 40% UA and UC population). Mixed and Rural service areas are further broken out according to the size of their hub city. Areas that include a large academic/research center with high numbers of health professionals engaged in administration, research and teaching are identified for separate analysis.

We envision a variety of applications of the Health Service Area geography, including data reporting and analysis, program development and evaluation, shortage designations and workforce projections.

For more information, visit https://www.ahec.wisc.edu/workforce

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AHEC Alumni Association: Alumni Event Recap

On Thursday, December 4, 2014 the AHEC Alumni Association held an event titled “The Different Parts of Wisconsin: Urban and Rural Health”.

Attendees heard from:
- Mari Freiberg, MPH, Executive Director of Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers
- Diane Leibenthal, RN, BSN, MS Sheboygan County Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Program Supervisor Marie Green Ganser, Civics ESL Coordinator & Instructor at the Literacy Network
- David Deci, MD, Associate Professor and the Director of Medical Student Education for the UW Department of Family Medicine
- Byron Crouse, MD, Professor of Family Medicine, Associate Dean for Rural and Community Health and Director of WARM.
- Laura Pettersen, Executive Director of Scenic Rivers AHEC

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Health Workforce Analysis

Wisconsin AHEC recently completed a project to map health service areas in Wisconsin. The primary objective for developing this service area geography is to facilitate local health workforce analysis. The service areas also provide a useful framework for monitoring local program outcomes related to health workforce development and population health status.

Each of the 135 service areas consists of a hub city and neighboring municipalities. With some exceptions (in northern Wisconsin and border communities) each service area has a population of at least 10,000, with most of the service area population within 30 minutes travel time of the hub city. Service areas are further identified by urban or rural type using 2010 U.S. Census data on urban density. The Census defines an Urbanized Area (UA) as a densely developed territory of 50,000 people or more, and an Urban Cluster (UC) as a densely developed territory of at least 2,500 but less than 50,000 people. The UA and UC population data was used to classify Wisconsin Health Service Areas as “Metro” (more than 50% of the population in UAs), “Urban” (less than 50% UA but more than 60% in UAs or UCs), “Mixed” (40% to 60% living in UAs and UCs), and “Rural (less than 40% UA and UC population). Mixed and Rural service areas are further broken out according to the size of their hub city. Areas that include a large academic/research center with high numbers of health professionals engaged in administration, research and teaching are identified for separate analysis.

We envision a variety of applications of the Health Service Area geography, including data reporting and analysis, program development and evaluation, shortage designations and workforce projections.

For more information, visit https://www.ahec.wisc.edu/workforce
AHEC ANNOUNCEMENT: Health Careers Camps for high school students

These five-day camps are held around the state of Wisconsin and allow students to experience first-hand the challenge, opportunities and rewards of health professions.

To learn more about the AHEC Health Careers Camps, visit http://ahec/health-careers-summer-camps.

2015 Site Dates:
1. Fox Valley Area Camp - Oshkosh
   June 21-25, 2015

2. Platteville Camp
   June 28-July 1, 2015

3. Lakeshore Camp-Manitowoc
   July 12-16, 2015

4. Madison Camp
   June 14-18, 2015

5. La Crosse Camp
   June 14-17, 2015

6. North Central Camp/ Marshfield Clinic Camp: Stevens Point
   June 14-18, 2015

The hands-on activities are facilitated by instructors and health care professionals.

23rd Annual $2,500 Rural Health Prize: June 1st Deadline

The Hermes Monato, Jr. Prize of $2,500 is awarded annually for the best rural health paper. It is open to all students of the University of Wisconsin (any campus) as well as those who will be recent graduates at the time of submission.

Students are encouraged to write on a rural health topic for a regular class and then to submit a copy to the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative as an entry by June 1st.

Previous award winners as well as judging criteria and submission information are available at http://www.rwhc.com/Awards/AnnualMonatoEssay.aspx.