Wisconsin AHEC receives notice of award
Program awarded $11.8 million for five years (2017-22)

WASHINGTON D.C. - The Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) has received notice of award for the 5-year renewal of the statewide program.

Wisconsin AHEC scored an unprecedented 96 (of 100) on the application.

Comments from the HRSA reviewers:
“"The applicant clearly documents the significant unmet needs in rural, lower socioeconomic and under-served areas and populations throughout the state." "The proposed project embraces an innovative inter-locking approach to addressing community primary care health professionals training, and workforce needs focusing on Cultural Diversity, Distribution (particularly in rural areas), and Practice Transformation."
AHEC welcomes two new regional directors

**Annie Short**

MANITOWOC – Annie Short became Northeastern Wisconsin AHEC’s (NEWAHEC) executive director. Short brings 10 years of experience working with community organization and the prevention of substance abuse and mental health.

Short graduated from Western Illinois University with a bachelor’s degree in communications and is currently attending Concordia University to earn her Master of Business Administration.

Prior to this new role, Short worked for two years as the Behavioral Health Prevention Coordinator for Milwaukee County and previous stints as the Manager for NEWAHEC over eight years.

In her free time you might find Short taking her two dogs, a Jack Russell and Rat Terrier, for long walks.

Short says she is looking forward to learning more about the AHEC system in her new role as well as “working to bring partners together to implement the many strategies to connect with students [in] the inter-professional framework.”

**Azure’De Williams (DeDe)**

MILWAUKEE - Azure’De Williams (DeDe) comes to Milwaukee Wisconsin AHEC with 20 years of health and education experience. She previously worked at the American Heart Association.

Williams’ ambition led her to the University of Wisconsin-Madison pre-law program, where she studied Behavioral Science and Law with minors in Psychology and Criminal Justice.

Throughout her early career, Williams has helped college students navigate their academic careers and engaged with youth through the YMCA of Greater Milwaukee and various academic institutions. Williams follows Dr. Brenda C. Gray, who earlier this year was appointed WI AHEC System Director.

Williams said about her new position at Milwaukee AHEC: “I look forward to AHEC preparing the next generation of authentic healthcare professionals...healthcare professionals with conviction of the heart, fearless of navigating crucial conversations, and overflowing with a spirit of joy.”

Marty Schaller departs NEWAHEC

**Marty Schaller**

MANITOWOC - Marty Schaller announced his departure from the Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers to become the Chief Financial and Operating Officer at Lakeshore Community Health Care in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Schaller was the Executive Director for the Northeastern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (NEWAHEC) since 2003 (14 years). During his last eight years at NEWAHEC, he also served on the board for the National AHEC Organization (NAO) including a term as President of the NAO Board. Prior to working at AHEC, Schaller was a co-owner at Sicurello & Schaller Consulting, Ltd. in Tucson, Arizona. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Bachelor of Science in business administration and the University of Arizona with a Master of Science in marketing.

“Thank you, Marty, for your years of exemplary service to the Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers. We look forward to further collaboration with you in your new role!” - Wisconsin AHEC
25th annual Wisconsin Express program hosts over 100 students across the state in 2017

STATEWIDE - Established in 1993, Wisconsin Express is a one-week cultural immersion experience designed to give health professions students the opportunity to study the diverse local and regional healthcare resources and challenges in Wisconsin.

The 2017 Spring Break program, March 19-24, offered placements at three sites (Beloit/Janesville, Minocqua, and Ladysmith) and the summer program, May 21-26, offered placements at 11 rural or urban community sites statewide (Ashland, Beloit/Janesville, Fennimore, Green Bay, La Crosse, Shawano, Milwaukee, Minocqua, Sheboygan, Stevens Point, and Wausau). Overall, the program received 122 applications, with 26 students placed in Spring Break and 78 in May.

New this year, two sites provided past Wisconsin Express participants the opportunity to serve as student facilitators: Angela Schraml in Beloit/Janesville and Hailey Bussan in Sheboygan. They assisted the site coordinators with activities and guided experiential learning for the other student participants.

Participants’ schools

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<td>UW-Milwaukee</td>
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<td>UW-Stevens Point</td>
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<table>
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<th>Spring Break (March 2017)</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UW-Madison</td>
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Total Participants 104

2017 statewide sites

Participant comments

"It opened my eyes to the variety of cultures practiced in [Wisconsin] and also the differences in certain communities’ access to care and difficulties in the health care system that affect people."

-La Crosse participant

"It increased my knowledge of how different cultures live day to day and why certain cultures value different things."

-Stevens Point participant
Monato Essay Competition seeks UW’s Best Rural Health Paper

SAUK CITY - The Rural WI Health Cooperative announced the 26th Annual Rural Health Essay Competition. The $2,500 prize, established in 1993, is open to anyone who has been a student at the University of Wisconsin (UW) within the preceding year (all campuses, programs, undergraduate, graduate, resident, fellows, part-time, and non-degree included). The competition was established to honor the memory of Hermes Monato, Jr., a December 1990 graduate, as well as to highlight the importance of rural health. Hermes worked at the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC) for only a few years but his infectious spirit and creative mind left rural health an enduring legacy.

The writer of the winning essay will receive a check for $2,500 paid from a trust fund established at the University of Wisconsin by RWHC, and family and friends of Hermes Monato, Jr.

There are no rigid requirements for the length, format, etc. To date, winning papers have ranged from first person essays to formal “journal ready” articles. Please note that papers already written for a class or other purposes during the previous twelve months are also eligible for this competition.

Entries must be submitted by Thursday, June 1, 2018 to: Monica Seiler, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, 880 Independence Lane, Sauk City, Wisconsin 53583 (or by email: MSeiler@rwhc.com).

Please include the writer’s name, contact information (address, email, phone), academic program and expected date of graduation on a separate cover sheet. Information regarding past winners is available at: www.rwhc.com.

Meet the new 2017-18 AHEC Alumni Board

STATEWIDE - A new slate of officers began its term in September, to lead activities for AHEC alumni. The AHEC Alumni Association promotes and fosters relationships among past program participants and offers unique educational opportunities through lectures and events. Past participants of signature AHEC programs, including the Interprofessional Case Competition, Wisconsin Express, Community Health Internship Program or Health Careers Camp are eligible to join.

Members of the Alumni Association have to opportunity to:
• Network with past and present program participants
• Attend regional alumni events and health speaker series
• Maintain connection with AHEC and stay informed of career opportunities

Additional news and update: www.ahec.wisc.edu

“Wisconsin AHEC: On Location” presents highlights of programs and people who bring teaching and learning to life in communities across the state. Suggestions for future articles are welcome; send your ideas to Jordan Gaal, AHEC statewide communications assistant (jgaal@wisc.edu).

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