IN THIS ISSUE...

Special feature - p.1
AHEC's biennial Day at the Capitol event results in 52 legislative visits

Program highlights - p.3
Milwaukee AHEC measures Community Health Worker success
HPV efforts furthered by collaboration with partners to reach providers

Teaching & learning - p.4
Teachers gain hands-on experience at Health Science Educators Academy
5th annual Global Health Day at UW
High school students explore health careers
YHSC continues demonstrating community-based outcomes

Announcements - p.6
Apply now: RUSCH 2018
2018 IP Healthcare Case Competition
Keri Robbins departs Wisconsin AHEC

AHEC’s biennial “Day at the Capital” event results in 52 legislative visits

STATEWIDE PROGRAM

Students, professionals, staff, and community members gathered from across the state to support Wisconsin AHEC through legislative advocacy at the capitol building in Madison.

MADISON - Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) supporters from across the state gathered in Madison on September 20, 2017 to advocate at the state capitol during AHEC’s “Day at the Capitol” advocacy event. In the morning, Traci Lindsey, Executive Director of South Central Wisconsin AHEC and Co-Director of Day at the Capitol, introduced the speakers.

Sara Finger, Executive Director of Wisconsin Alliance for Women’s Health, spoke about the importance of healthcare advocacy. “No one can deny your dream, your vision, what you’re seeing in your families, what you’re seeing in your life, what you’re seeing in yourself,” Finger said as she gave advice to participants.

Continued on page 2.
AHEC’s biennial Day at the Capital event results in 52 legislative visits

Continued from page 1.

Brenda C. Gray, PhD, MPH spoke to Day at the Capitol participants about the importance of AHEC’s mission. “What we’re called on to do today is show the impact of what we are doing,” said Gray. Brad Gingras, Executive Director of Northwest Wisconsin AHEC, facilitated an advocacy training practice session. Other AHEC staff members offered their input and guidance.

During lunch, the participants listened to advice from a panel of legislators featuring State Senator Jennifer Shilling (District 32) and State Representative Debra Kolste (District 44). Senator Shilling said, “When you’re not in the room they talk about you, when you’re in the room they talk with you.” Representative Kolste commented, “This is your opportunity to tell them your story.”

“The work of AHEC and the organization’s ability to continue to do its work depends a lot on its visibility with legislators because our funding comes from the state,” said Nehemiah Chinavare, Graduate Assistant for the Wisconsin AHEC statewide office and Co-Director of Day at the Capitol.

In the afternoon, participants representing all seven regional AHEC centers attended a total of 52 individual meetings with hometown Representatives and Senators at their offices in the State Capitol building. They discussed the importance of AHEC’s healthcare pipeline and workforce development programs.

One of the most impactful benefits of the Day at the Capitol event was the diversity of experiences and backgrounds of the individuals advocating for Wisconsin AHEC. For example, Carla Echeveste participated in the Rural and Urban Scholars in Community Health (RUSCH) program during her undergraduate career at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and worked with Dr. Melinda Stolley at the Medical College of Wisconsin’s Cancer Disparities Program. Carla helped adapt the Cancer 101 curriculum for the Latino population in Southeastern Wisconsin. When asked what was most impactful about her AHEC experience, Carla said, “Seeing and interacting with physicians who also believe in your capacities and say yes we need female physicians to address this shortage and to keep on motivating us to pursue medicine.” Carla plans to use her undergraduate background in accounting, mathematics, and pre-medicine to possibly pursue a dual MD and MBA.

Another participant, Travis, is a junior at Portage High School. He plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison and eventually continue to study Oncology in medical school. When asked about how AHEC has made an impact on his education, Travis said, “They’ve really inspired kids at our high school to look more into the healthcare field.” South Central AHEC presents to high schools in the area about different healthcare careers paths. “I didn’t know all the careers that were available in healthcare. It really opened up my idea of healthcare,” said Travis.

“I look forward to just being an advocate for medicine and the many disparities and issues that it has because there’s a lot of work to be done.”

Carla Echeveste, a Milwaukee AHEC representative at Day at the Capitol.

“They’ve really inspired kids at our high school to look more into the healthcare field.”

Travis, a high school student representative from the South Central WI AHEC region.
Milwaukee AHEC measures Community Health Worker success

MILWAUKEE - The Milwaukee Area Health Education Center (Milwaukee-AHEC) connects students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health. Since 1992, Milwaukee AHEC has worked to forge collaborative partnerships with health-related employers, community-based organizations, academic institutions, and other sectors to advance community and public health that will impact health outcomes.

In 2002, Wisconsin AHEC received the Health Education Training Center (HETC) grant to address health care issues through education (i.e. retention, increase representation of minority faculty, enhance the practice environment, educational support, information dissemination).

Over the next decade AHECs have:
1. Garnered funding to host national leaders to inform the conversation in regard to the CHW agenda.
2. Engaged our partners in research and training of CHWs.

Key Milwaukee AHEC CHW Achievements within the last 5 years include:
• Training and placing over 140 Community Health Workers (CHW) in both clinical and community settings.
• Launching the Wisconsin Community Health Worker Alliance (WICHWA) as a voice for healthcare innovation, quality healthcare delivery and health access specifically for the underserved and disenfranchised.

How often do you use your CHW training at work?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>69.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of the time</td>
<td>13.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About half of the time</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highest level of education at the time of CHW training

- Associate's Degree (40%)
- Bachelor's Degree (36%)
- High School Diploma/GED (20%)
- Master's Degree (4%)

HPV efforts furthered by collaboration with partners to reach providers

WASHINGTON D.C. - Studies consistently show that a strong provider recommendation from healthcare providers is the single best predictor of HPV vaccination. Aubrey Stetter-Hesselberg, an HPV Coordinator at Scenic Rivers AHEC, oversees Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin for the NAO HPV Immunization Project and has been connecting with providers, healthcare professionals, and health facilities that deal directly with HPV vaccinations in an attempt to improve the rates in the region. Now beginning year four of the HPV Immunization Project grant, over 2,200 people have participated in educational sessions. During year one of the grant, Aubrey coordinated two webinars and one live HPV education session.

Continuing efforts in year two of the grant, Wisconsin collaborated with the American Academy of Pediatrics Wisconsin Chapter to host two HPV Vaccine Summits, both aimed to improve HPV immunization rates throughout the state. These summits were held in May in both Wausau and Milwaukee. In total, these two summits brought together 200 Wisconsin HPV providers. Aubrey also built relationships in Iowa and Minnesota delivering educational programming through webinars and at conferences.

In year three, partnering with the American Cancer Society in Minnesota, over 100 providers participated in educational sessions focused on increasing HPV immunization rates through strong provider recommendation. In Iowa, participation in the HPV and Cancer Conference engaged over 100 Iowa healthcare professionals. The project continues to offer monthly webinars and build relationships to reach new providers and professionals.

Partnership and collaboration are crucial for making a widespread impact and significant change. With such momentous work being done throughout the region around the common goal of increasing HPV vaccination rates, it is vital to deliver evidence based information to providers if we are to make longstanding differences. Contact Aubrey Stetter-Hesselberg, ahesselberg@scenicriversahec.org, for more information.

Beginning year four of the grant, over 2,200 people have participated in HPV immunization educational sessions.
Teachers gain hands-on experience at Health Science Educators Academy

MADISON - Teachers from across Wisconsin gathered to learn more about health science classroom opportunities at Madison College on July 25-26, 2017. The Health Science Educators Academy was sponsored by the North Central and South Central regions of Wisconsin AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The academy was established to provide teachers with knowledge, training, and classroom applications for teaching secondary students as part of the healthcare pipeline.

Presentations were provided by Madison College instructors and healthcare professionals. The keynote address was The Future of Health Care: Empowered Patients and Holistic Systems. Breakout sessions focused on Nursing Careers and Physical Assessment; Vital Signs; Public Health; Pharmacy; Clinical Laboratory Science; Respiratory Therapy; Mental Health; Vision; Surgical Care and Massage Therapy; Health Information Careers; Physical Rehabilitation; Medical Simulation; and Radiography. Participants were also informed about supplies for health science classrooms, future trends and healthcare employment needs, a resource portal, and academic advising and post-secondary requirements for students pursuing health profession training programs.

The teachers were very impressed with the format and appreciated the chance to provide input on their needs in a pre-academy survey. From exploring careers in each of the above areas to experiencing hands on vital signs, laboratory experiments, and ways to save lives, participants learned valuable information to share with their students.

Educators apply newly acquired physical assessment skills on an infant simulator.

Broadening horizons at 5th annual Global Health Day at UW-Madison

MADISON - South Central WI-AHEC (Area Health Education Center) partnered with UW-Madison’s Global Health Institute on November 3 to facilitate the 5th Annual Global Health Day at UW-Madison for area high school students. Seven high schools (Janesville Craig, Janesville Parker, Madison West, Marshall, Portage, Sauk Prairie and Wisconsin Dells) participated in the event. Students interested in pursuing a career in the field of health care after high school and a Health Science Occupations Instructor were invited to learn about the topic of Global Health and gain a better understanding of how social circumstances and environmental resources influence health.

Presentations and a variety of Student activities were planned and facilitated by three UW-Madison student organizations: Partners in Health-Engage, GlobeMed, and Wisconsin MEDLIFE. A special thank you to Sweta Shrestha for coordinating this annual event.

Ms. Nancy Ziegler, Portage High School health science occupations educator, and her students.
High school students explore health careers

BEAVER DAM - On Tuesday October 24, 2017, a select group of students and an advisor from both Horicon High School and Mayville High School participated in a Health Careers Exploration Day at Beaver Dam Community Hospital. This event was co-sponsored by the South Central WI-AHEC (Area Health Education Center) and the Beaver Dam Community Hospital.

These high school students were given a rare opportunity to learn about Health Care Career options in a behind the scenes look at the daily operations of the hospital by touring the Health WORKS/Emergency Room, Lab, Medical Imaging and Diagnostics and Surgery. Students also participated in hands-on activities replicating tasks they may be responsible for as a health care professional. The Junior and Senior students were also provided with informational presentations from Human Resources.

Students had time to participate in round table discussions about Health Care Career Ladders, Dietary and Rehabilitation Careers from a professional who is trained and works in each of the departments. They finished the day with two presentations more specific to our local communities. One was about the Blue Zone Project. This project focuses on a new approach to health care involving a more proactive approach to personal and community health. The emphasis is on healthy life choices with community involvement. Students also had the opportunity to hear a representative from Moraine Park Technical College.

One student said, “I now realize that health care is where I belong [and] I can’t wait for the future.”

Youth Health Service Corps continues to demonstrate community-based outcomes

MILWAUKEE - The Milwaukee AHEC Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) got off to a great start this school year at James Madison Academic Campus. This year the program is being led by Medical College of Wisconsin students, Freddy Siller and Nikhil Munsiri. During the October meeting, veteran YHSC members learned how to take blood pressure screenings. They will have the opportunity to practice this new skill in November, when they teach the new members.

YHSC continues to demonstrate outcomes that we are proud of. On the end of the year survey taken last May, YHSC members reported that they agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of participating in the YHSC program:

- They felt more responsible for health in others,
- They have at least one teacher or other adult who takes their interests seriously,
- They learned things they did not know about health careers and
- They plan to attend college.

Members of the Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) through Milwaukee AHEC continue to report that they feel more responsible for health in others.

YHSC members practice taking blood pressure screenings.

Putting classroom learning into practice is common for YHSC members.
Apply now: Rural and Urban Scholars in Community Health 2018

RUSCH is a two-year pipeline program designed for pre-health students who aspire to practice medicine in Wisconsin’s rural or urban health professional shortage areas. The program includes an 8-week research placement (summer 1) and an 8-week community health internship (summer 2).


RUSCH 2018 partners:

Keri Robbins departs Wisconsin AHEC

MADISON - After nearly eight years of dedicated service, Keri Robbins is departing Wisconsin AHEC to become Director of Student Life and Pre-College Programs at the Wisconsin School of Business. During her time at Wisconsin AHEC, Keri oversaw communications, special events and conferences, and student programs, including Wisconsin Express and RUSCH. “I’ve loved my time at AHEC and will deeply miss my colleagues, community partners, and the students we serve,” said Keri, “It has truly been a privilege to work in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health and I wish AHEC every success in the future.”

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).

Follow AHEC on social media!

WISCONSIN DELLS - The 5th annual Interprofessional Healthcare Case Competition will be held at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells January 11-12, 2018. This annual event hosted by Wisconsin AHEC invites students from any Wisconsin college/university to compete in a case competition.

Teams have two months to work together on a case study and submit their entry prior to the competition event. Each team conducts an analysis of interprofessional efforts during the care of a patient/client. At the end of the process, teams present findings to a panel of judges representing various disciplines in the community of Wisconsin’s healthcare professionals.

2017 Interprofessional Healthcare Case Competition participants