What is AHEC?
The AHEC (Area Health Education Center) program is a health professions education and outreach program supported by the State of Wisconsin, federal grants, the state’s health professions training programs, and local communities. It is part of a nationwide network of programs for improving accessibility and quality of primary health care.

The Wisconsin AHEC System consists of seven regional centers located in Manitowoc, Superior, Milwaukee, Madison, Cashton, Wausau, and Marinette. A statewide office, located in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, administers state and federal contracts to the centers, and maintains several statewide programs.

The national program was designed to encourage universities and educators to look beyond their institutions to form partnerships that meet community health needs, working toward the goal of decentralizing health professions training and linking communities with academic health centers in partnerships to promote cooperative solutions to local health problems.

Community Health Internship Program (CHIP)
Statewide • Milwaukee • Environmental • SEARCH

2011 Summary Report
The Wisconsin AHEC Community Health Internship Program links undergraduate and graduate student interns with health departments, community service agencies and community health centers throughout Wisconsin to address a variety of public health issues. Projects vary widely to suit interns’ interests and abilities, as well as local program needs.

On-site mentors provide technical support and assistance and help interns to gain an understanding and appreciation of the broad range of public health activities undertaken at the local level. The program would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of these community health professionals, who enrich the educational experience for CHIP participants.

In turn, there is also a benefit to the communities where interns are placed. Projects are proposed by the sponsoring agency or health department, and address local health priorities. Each intern’s work typically has an immediate direct impact on the local community or region, as highlighted in this report.

The program is sustained through funding from the State of Wisconsin and from federal and other grants, including WiCPHET (the Wisconsin Center for Public Health Education and Training).

AHEC Statewide CHIP
JUNE 6 - JULY 29, 2011 (8 weeks)
During summer 2011, 45 students were placed in 28 Wisconsin counties.

Milwaukee CHIP
JUNE 6 - JULY 29, 2011 (8 weeks)
A group of 35 students participated in Milwaukee CHIP. Interns were placed in 4 southeastern counties (Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth). These placements are coordinated by Milwaukee AHEC.

UW-Oshkosh Environmental Intern Program
In collaboration with UW-Oshkosh, 20 students were placed at 5 sites (spanning 8 counties) to conduct environmental health inspections.

SEARCH Program
National Health Service Corps scholars and other students in selected health professions are eligible for placement in CHIP through SEARCH contract funds (Student/Resident Experiences in Community Health). The 2011 CHIP Program included 12 SEARCH students completing internships at Community Health Centers and other sites in underserved areas.
Participant Profile

Students selected for the program are usually college juniors or seniors, first-year health professions graduate students or other graduate students with a strong interest in public health. Since 2002, AHEC’s statewide program has placed 211 interns in more than 50 participating health departments and other agencies. Milwaukee CHIP has placed an additional 335 students since that program began in 2000.

Statewide CHIP
45 students
Undergraduates 38
Graduate students 4
Going to Medical School in Fall 2011 5

Milwaukee CHIP
35 students
Undergraduates 29
(includes 6 RUSCH students - UW SMPH pipeline program)
Graduate students 2
Medical School 2
Going to Medical School in Fall 2011 2

Counties with Placements

Statewide CHIP
Includes environmental interns
34 counties

Milwaukee CHIP
4 counties

Colleges and Universities
Spring 2011 enrollments of Statewide CHIP and Milwaukee CHIP interns:
Beloit College 2
Brigham Young
Carroll College
Carthage College
Concordia University 3
Indiana University
Indiana Wesleyan University
Lawrence University 3
Marquette University 2
Medical College of Wisconsin 2
Tufts University
University of Michigan
University of Nebraska–Kearney
University of North Carolina
University of Vermont
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin - Green Bay
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse 5
University of Wisconsin - Madison 24
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee 16
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh 2
University of Wisconsin - Parkside
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin - Stout 5
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
Wisconsin Lutheran College
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
Wisconsin Lutheran College

AHEC Regions
Northwest
Northern Highland
North Central
Northwest
Scenic Rivers
South Central
Milwaukee & Southeast

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
Wisconsin Lutheran College

Waukesha
Milwaukee
30 interns
Walworth
Racine
Kenosha

Statewide CHIP
Includes environmental interns
34 counties
Participating Sites

Statewide CHIP sites
Allied Wellness Center
Aurora BayCare Medical Center
Barron County Health Department
Bayfield County Health Department
Buffalo County Health Department
Chippewa County Health Department
Dane County Health Department
Dodge County Health Department
Grant County Health Department
Green Lake County Health Department
Gunderson Lutheran
Iron County Health Department
Polk County Health Department
Rock County Health Department
Red Cliff Tribal Center
Rusk County Health and Human Services Dept.
Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers
Sheboygan County Div. of Public Health
Sustain Dane
Taylor County Health Dept.
Trempealeau County Health Dept.
UW Oshkosh
- Environmental Health (multiple sites)
UW School of Nursing
Washington County - UW Extension
Watertown Health Dept.
Waushara County Health Department
Winnebago County Health Department
Wisconsin Division of Public Health
Wisconsin Literacy, Inc.
Wood County Health Department

Milwaukee CHIP sites
Aurora Community Programs — Aurora Adult Day Center
Aurora Sinai Medical Center — Midwifery & Wellness Center
Aurora Walker’s Point Community Clinic
Boys & Girls Club
Bread of Healing Clinic/Agape and Eastbrook
Bread of Healing Clinic/Cross Lutheran Church Center for Urban Population Health
Community Care Inc.
CORE El Centro
Greenfield Health Dept.
Kenosha County Division of Health
Medical College of Wisconsin — Downtown Health Clinic
Milwaukee AHEC
Milwaukee Health Department
Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Dental Clinic
Racine Health Department
UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing
Walworth County Health Dept.

Comments from Mentors

I have always felt this is a great program for workforce development and assistance to complete projects in the health department that are above and beyond the daily duties that staff have time to complete.

We’re VERY grateful for the enthusiasm and help the interns brought to the center! Their projects really enhanced our current programming and drew more attention to key nutrition and health issues our community faces.

As a former CHIP intern myself, I think this is a wonderful program. It helped me gain so much knowledge as a health professional and I now work in the community where I interned. CHIP provides a wonderful opportunity for students to get a real view of the immense value of public health.

This was an excellent experience both for myself and the intern.

This was my first experience with the CHIP Program. I feel fortunate to have been matched. Our intern has done an excellent job in promoting the WIC program.

Our intern was enjoyable and I believe the entire staff enjoyed working with her. I am grateful for this project and our intern to help us take steps toward our needs assessment and our accreditation process.

Great program! We would like to participate again next year.
Projects cover themes spanning all areas of public and community health, that address current needs and priorities of the local site. Students are matched to the projects and sites based on their skills and academic interests, as well as their preference for location.

### STATEWIDE

#### Local Policy / Community Health Improvement Plan

- Elizabeth Chiquoine (Bayfield County)
- Neel Patel (Buffalo County)
- Nyssa Becker (Dodge County)
- Alexis Garuz (Iron County)
- Dustin Baldwin (Monroe County)
- Morgan Abert (Waushara County)

#### Health Education

- Claire Lynch (Dane County – Allied Wellness Cooperative)
- Ben Biesterveld (Dane County – Wisconsin Literacy, Inc.)
- Kaitlin Wiesman (Dane County – Violence Prevention)
- Ashley Wagner (Grant County)
- Janine Foggia (Oneida County)
- Kate Hansen (Pepin County – alcohol and substance abuse prevention)
- Liliana Palencia (Monroe County - Scenic Bluffs CHC)

#### Breastfeeding and WIC (Women, Infants and Children)

- Liz Yohn (Bayfield County – Red Cliff Tribal Health Center)
- Amber Rassbach (Chippewa County)
- McKenzie Falker (Rusk County)
- Sarah Heidorf (Winnebago County – farmer’s market and WIC)

#### Social Media and Technology

- Jennifer Bagley (Jefferson County)
- Jake VanHeuklom (Polk County)
- Rebecca Amstutz (Rock County)
- Tracy Rothwell (Sheboygan County)
- Josue Flores (Winnebago County – food mapping)

#### Health Promotion

- Emily Provo (Green Lake County)
- Jessica Ramel (La Crosse County)
- Amanda Urmanski (Taylor County)
- Cathy Becker (Washington County – UW Extension)
- Tiffany Hahn (Wood County)

### Nutrition, Obesity, and Physical Activity

- Humza Ansari (Outagamie County)
- Hannah Brandt (Wisconsin DHS)
- Martia Hunt (Dane County – Lussier Community Education Center)
- Clark Carroll (Dane County – Sustain Dane)
- Alison Gladowski (La Crosse County – Gunderson Lutheran)
- Erin Niles (Pepin County – community garden project)

#### Environmental Health - Inspections, Beach Monitoring and Water Quality

- Emily Sedgwick (Dane County – Public Health Dept.)
- Marie Carter (Manitowoc County)
- Angelina Kalytowicz (Watertown)
- Toby Talsma (Ozaukee County)
- Meredith Johnson (Trempealeau County)

#### UW-OSHKOSH SITES

**Ashland/Lake Superior Region**

- Ashley Garcia, Kayla Pierce, Alissa Stute, Kirsten Jaun

**Door/Kewaunee Counties**

- Brooke Jansen, Adrianne Duwe, Matthew Larsen

**Manitowoc/Sheboygan/Kewaunee Counties**

- Dean Sanders, Adam Meyer, Andrew Mallard, Joseph Weber

**UW - Oshkosh Lab**

- Sarah Burmeister, Sammi Jo Kirst, Britney Bramer, Ryan Bartell

**Vilas/Oneida Counties**

- Kelly Genskow, Alexandra Beres, Cassidy Walsh, Samantha Treutel

### Research: Planning, Evaluation

- Melinda Beyer (Barron County)
- Jessica DeValk (Brown County – Aurora BayCare)
- Heidi Luft, Naomi Takahashi (Dane County – WINNERS (Wisconsin Network for New Employment and Research Support))
- Nick Segner (Douglas County – Lake Superior CHC)
- Jennifer Sargent (Lincoln County)
- Caitlin Rublee (Watertown)
Children and Families
Developing a Parenting Curriculum (Megan Armbruster)
Project LAUNCH: Survey of Child Care Centers’ Developmental Screening Practices (Madeline Lamb)
Birth Outcomes and Client Engagement in the Nurse-Family Partnership Program (Mai Ka Hang)

Health Promotion
Milwaukee Health Department Wellness Committee (Janelle Damon)
Healthy Behaviors – CAPS Program (Margaret Linden)
Project Health (Carrie Stehman)
Global Health Program (Kathleen Hannan)

Service / Quality Improvement
Integrating New Services into Local Health Dept. WIC Clinics (Laura Zimmerman)
Organizing and Coordinating (OAK) a Free Clinic: Bread of Healing Clinic at Cross Lutheran Church (Nicole Martinez)
Client Navigator as a Bridge to Quality Improvement (Codie Vassar)
Eastbrook/Agape Liaison Manager: Bread of Healing Clinics (MacMichael Jensen)
Milwaukee Regional Cancer Care Network Survivor Resource Hub (Nika Gokhman)
Diversity in Arts – Culturally Appropriate Therapeutic Activities for Older Adults (Jonathan Fricke)

Environmental Health
Water Quality Monitoring in Walworth (Erica Urban)
Comprehensive Sanitary Survey Project for High Risk Wisconsin Beaches, Southern Wisconsin (Elizabeth Weber)

Social Media and Technology
Unplugged: A Video Series for Population Health Research Dissemination (Natalie Bishop)
Evolving Health Information Technology for Community Health Nursing (Lia Geever)
Milwaukee AHEC Summer Experience – Photovoice Project (Sara Olson)
The AHEC CHIP program drew me back home. It provided me with a wonderful experience. This internship also showed me what it is like to work in public health in Wisconsin – an invaluable experience that has refocused my future career plans to come back and work here. The AHEC internship program is giving opportunities for Wisconsin students to stay in Wisconsin which I believe will be a significant help for workforce retention for the state’s future.

— Amber Rassbach, Chippewa Falls intern

As a result of this internship, I understand some of the barriers to healthcare, the healthcare system, how to build a coalition, and how change actually happens within a community. Additionally, I learned how to better present complicated data in a way that is easy to understand and how to live in a small town by myself. I am in the process of applying to medical school, and I am now certain I will continue to work with public health. I also see how issues of access to health care are accentuated in rural communities because of a simple lack of physicians. This internship has made me consider the possibility of becoming a primary care doctor and practicing in a small town.

— Neel Patel, Buffalo County intern

I am most grateful for the relationships I made. Everyone was so inclusive and made sure I felt comfortable. They helped me to experience a new part of the state I probably never would have explored if it wasn’t for CHIP. The cultural immersion has helped me develop a better understanding of rural Wisconsin.

— Alexis Garuz, Iron County intern

I have been influenced to pursue a Master’s in Public Health while earning a Pharm.D. I am truly excited to engage in more experiences like CHIP, and I am even more passionate about public health. I feel that I have had influence on every person that I have helped via the goals accomplished by the project.

— Martia Hunt, Lussier Community Education Center, Dane County intern

In general, this internship was instrumental in furthering my future career as an Environmental Health Specialist and has helped me gain knowledge that will help me for years to come.

— Jake VanHeuklom, Polk County intern

I can see myself working in a public health department sometime in the future, something that I had not even thought about before I started this internship. This experience may have only lasted two months, but its impact will definitely last a lifetime.

— Amanda Urmanski, Taylor County intern

The things I accomplished during my internship pale in comparison to what it gave me in personal growth. I learned how to interact and connect with people whose background – racial, economic, and educational – differs profoundly from my own.

— Claire Lynch, Allied Wellness Cooperative, Dane County intern

Thanks to my CHIP experience, I appreciate that the medical field represents a unique intersection of human experience, where languages, cultures, and beliefs are as essential to a patient’s health as prescription drugs or surgical procedures. As I pursue a career as a physician, I look forward to applying what I learned as a CHIP intern. I hope to continue to be involved in community outreach efforts that aim at increasing health care access to different patient populations.

— Liliana Palencia, Scenic Bluffs CHC intern