Wisconsin AHEC director announces retirement

STATEWIDE PROGRAM

Nancy Sugden, AHEC Director

MADISON - After an outstanding 45 years as academic staff at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Nancy Sugden has announced her retirement at the end of this year. She has served as director of Wisconsin AHEC since 1999. She has also worked as the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health since 1997. Sugden was instrumental in obtaining many grants to further AHEC’s mission. She has also served on a variety of advisory boards and councils.

Nancy Sugden has truly made an impact on the Wisconsin AHEC program. Her work as director helped to establish core AHEC programs and fostered strong connections between statewide partners. Sugden says, “What I find most remarkable about Wisconsin AHEC is the degree of collaboration among our seven regional AHEC centers for program development and implementation. Shared programming and a cooperative spirit have enabled us to make the most of limited resources and build the program.”

Years of service...

Director, Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System (1999-present)

Assistant Dean, Academic Affairs, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (1997-present)

Administrative Officer, Student Affairs, UW Medical School (1985-1997)

Undergraduate Adviser, UW College of Letters and Science, Dept. of Economics (1977-1985)

Research Specialist, Department of Economics, UW-Madison (1974-1977)

MADISON - The Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers partnered with the Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce (WCMEW) to host an interprofessional conference in November. The conference took place at the Marriott West in Madison with 65 registrants.

The conference, entitled “Interprofessional Collaborations: Advancing Wisconsin’s Healthcare and Education,” focused on four major conference objectives relating to interprofessional education and collaboration. These objectives included:

- Engaging with colleagues practicing in health care and education interested in interprofessional education (IPE) and interprofessional clinical practice (IPCP).
- Developing and building on knowledge and skills across the spectrum of IPE and IPCP program development.
- Learning the current state of IPE and IPCP theory based best practices, and lessons learned in the field.
- Advancing and sustaining IPE and IPCP to facilitate effective and patient-centered health care education and practice.

These objectives were put into practice through a keynote speaker, poster session, panels, and a series of interprofessional workshops. Keynote speaker Dr. Susan Corbridge set the stage for the conference. This was followed by two panels comprised of Wisconsin educators from private and public educational institutions and clinicians with an interprofessional focus. Dr. Andy Anderson moderated both panels and deftly handled many audience questions. During lunch, participants were able to view posters featuring examples of interprofessional best practices. After lunch there were seven breakout sessions ranging from approaches in rural healthcare to the use of human patient simulation to promote interprofessional education.

Friday featured a half-day workshop facilitated by Sarah Shradar and Stephen Jernigan, PT, PhD, of the University of Kansas Medical Center. Shradar and Jernigan conducted the workshop in an interactive way, breaking the large group up into teams to capitalize on interprofessional dialogue. The workshop utilized “liberating structures” (www.liberatingstructures.com) to demonstrate techniques, goals and strategies with real life examples.

Breakout sessions offered variety of learning

“The Interprofessional Collaborations conference breakout sessions represented the wide array of interprofessional work happening across Wisconsin. Presenters shared best practices and lessons learned, while engaging their audience in discussion. “

- Laura Pettersen - Conference Planning Committee

Workshops/sessions

- An Integral Approach to Rural Healthcare
- Incorporation of IPE, experiences and exposures into pharmacy education
- Use of Human Patient Simulation to Promote Interprofessional Clinical Practice and Education
- Interprofessional Education - A Triad Approach to Team Based Care
- CIIMTS - Chronic Illness Management in Teams of Urban Multidisciplinary Scholars - Diabetes and Hypertension
- IPE 1.0 Lessons for Learners & Educators
- IPE & CUW Innovative Programming for Developing Students in Health and Social Care Professions
Interprofessional Collaborations Conference
(continued from p. 2)

Academic & Clinical Thursday Morning Panels

The first panel offered the interprofessional perspective in education. (L to R): Michael Oldani (Concordia University), Kathy Loppnow (Wisconsin Technical College System), Sue Korek (Medical College of Wisconsin), and Jeanette Roberts (University of Wisconsin).

The second panel discussed interprofessional clinical practice. (L to R): Jennifer Hartlaub (Aurora Health Care), Kathy Kerscher (Bellin Health), Lindsey Lundgaard (Thedacare), and Chris Tashjian (Vibrant Health Family Clinics).

“North Central WI AHEC was happy to provide fiscal management service for the Interprofessional Collaborations Conference. One of AHEC’s many strong suits is the multitude of skill-sets our Centers bring to coordination and delivery of programs, such as this conference.”

- Christina Patrin
Conference Planning Committee

Students gain hands-on surgery experience

SCENIC RIVERS

LA CROSSE - Exploratory Surgery Day isn’t an operation without direction. It’s a chance for high school students to learn about careers in surgery. A live streamed surgery is viewed by twelve students while a surgical technologist answers questions, talks about what’s happening and helps students understand the surgical process. Students have a chance to talk directly with the surgeon while he/she is working on the patient.

This program was created when the surgical unit was no longer able to accept students for job shadows. Students arrived bright and early to see the surgery room set up, understand the importance infection control and the privacy components of surgery, as well as build an understanding of what will be happening during the particular surgery. From gall bladder removal to hip replacement, students have been able to explore surgical careers without disrupting the surgical team.

Following the surgery observation, students used the Gundersen Health System Integrated Center for Education’s simulation lab to try their hand at laparoscopic surgery, intubation and suturing. This program was started in 2015 and has engaged 40 students so far.

Photo Showcase: 4th Annual Global Health Day

SOUTH CENTRAL

MADISON - On Monday, October 31, South Central AHEC hosted the 4th annual Global Health Day at UW-Madison for rural high school students. It was held in the Dejope Residence Hall from 8:30am-3:00pm.

Panel featuring students from UW-Madison

Sweta Shrestha, Assistant Director for Education at the Global Health Institute speaks

The entire group of faculty, instructors and 33 students from Portage High School, Baraboo High School, Madison West High School, Sun Prairie High School, New Glarus High School, Janesville Craig High School and Rock University High School.
New program: Community Health Service Learning Course

MADISON - This fall the Wisconsin AHEC Program Office in partnership with the Cooperative Extension introduced a new Community Health Service Learning course for undergraduate students interested in public health. Under the direction of AHEC community health programs coordinator Courtney Saxler, and Paula Tran Inzeo at UW Cooperative Extension, students experienced local community health through interning part-time throughout the semester for academic credit.

UW-Extension Partnership

Eleven UW-Madison students were matched with projects hosted by the UW-Extension offices statewide. This is a new partnership with the Cooperative Extension office, which works to provide greater access to resources, support growth and address the changing needs of the state.

Projects range from health promotion through social media in Waukesha County to data analysis of food access and insecurity in Shawano County. The projects were designed by sites to allow students to work remotely from Madison. UW-Extension offices with participating projects include Rock, Adams, Waukesha, Shawano, Kewaunee, Eau Claire, Rock, Monroe and Dane as well as the Cooperative Extension Family Living Programs state office in Madison.

Food Insecurity Projects

Program participant Alex Ablavsky is assisting the Food as Medicine Partnership (FAMP) in assembling a food insecurity toolkit for use in medical clinics in Eau Claire County. Ablavsky said,

“I look forward to learning more about public health communication while contributing to a worthwhile cause.”

After graduation, Ablavsky will serve with the Peace Corps in Senegal beginning in February 2017. During his two years and three months in Senegal he will be a Community Health Extension Agent focusing on maternal and child nutrition and preventing communicable diseases such as malaria and typhus.

Obesity Prevention Projects

Gina Nerone, another participant, is working with UW-Extension Shawano County on increasing awareness and participation in the Strong Bones class statewide. This class is coordinated by the StrongWomen program which works to empower women and increase awareness in the areas of nutrition, physical activity and obesity prevention. Strong Bones is an evidence-based fitness class for older adults designed to improve muscle-mass, bone density, and overall health outcomes. Nerone said,

Nerone will continue to teach classes at the Neighborhood House in Madison throughout the Spring semester. She is also continuing projects with Shawano County.

Coursework

Beyond the community-based projects, the Community Health Service Learning course also has a didactic component. Students had an orientation and training and complete online discussion and reading assignments throughout the semester. Readings are assigned from various public health topics with an emphasis on health equity and the UW-Madison Go Big Read, Evicted, which explores poverty and housing insecurity.

Community Health Service Learning Course Orientation

Sweta Shrestha of the UW-Madison Global Health Institute briefs students on connections between local and global health issues before their community health experience.
Personalized medicine panel

WAUSAU - Personalized medicine offers hope for many never seen in healthcare before. North Central AHEC and Northern Highland AHEC recently sponsored a panel on November 15 entitled “One in a Billion: A medical mystery, a young boy’s life”. The panel addressed the story of Nic Volker and the dawn of genomic medicine – as illustrated in the new book by Mark Johnson and Kathleen Gallagher.

Wisconsin AHEC, along with the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service, the Medical College of Wisconsin, One in a Billion Foundation and the Aspirus health system, worked to sponsor this panel. The event took place at UW-Marathon County in Wausau. Panelists included Kathleen Gallagher, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist; Amylynne Santiago Volker, the mother of Nic and Founder of the One in a Billion Foundation; and Daniel Helbling, a senior clinical genomics analyst at the Medical College of Wisconsin. A social after the panel gave audience members a chance to meet the panelists.

Upcoming Future Physician’s Day

WAUSAU - The Medical College of Wisconsin, North Central AHEC, and Northern Highland AHEC are hosting a one-day event for high school junior and senior students to experience a glimpse into medical school and a medical career. The event is limited to 20 regional high school students who will explore key topics studied in medical school. The event will be on January 6, 2017 at the Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin Campus.

High school students share and present health insurance literacy projects

PORTAGE - South Central AHEC collaborated with Divine Savior Healthcare employees and the Portage high School Health Education leaders to tackle the difficult topic of health insurance. Portage High school students learned about the complicated matter of health insurance with the Portage Health Literacy Committee this past summer. This was a collaborative effort between Caitlyn Mowatt and Divine Savior Hospital, South Central AHEC, and the Portage high school group.

The Portage Health Literacy Committee works towards addressing health literacy concerns in the community. They are also launching a community based project to generate awareness around health literacy. The committee stresses the importance of knowing how to use insurance in the healthcare system. Health literacy is also a continuing focus of the South Central AHEC region.

This particular workshop with high school student leaders at Portage High School began with a three day workshop to learn the basics of health insurance and how to understand it. The student leaders that participate in this workshop will engage their peers by teaching them that understanding health insurance is important even at their age. The students who participated were from Ms. Nancy Ziegler’s Health Science Occupations Education classes and the HOSA student organization.

Tim Rushmore, a Primary Care Clerkship student through Wisconsin AHEC, worked with the students to create their presentations. The presentations to spread health insurance awareness were launched in September. Students had the chance to showcase their creative strategies and take the material they worked on back to their school.

“The student leaders that participate in this workshop will engage their peers.”

Students from the health science occupations education classes that participated in the literacy project, pictured with their instructors, and South Central AHEC staff member Wendy Hinz.
RUSCH program under new direction

MADISON – In October, the Rural and Urban Scholars in Community Health program (RUSCH) came under the direction of Wisconsin AHEC, joining our other pipeline programs that serve rural and urban under-served communities. RUSCH is a premed pipeline program hosted at UW-SMPH, for students from partnering campuses. Keri Robbins, Assistant Director of Wisconsin AHEC, has been appointed to oversee the RUSCH program.

The RUSCH program aims to attract students from diverse backgrounds interested in practicing medicine in rural and urban under-served areas of Wisconsin. Participants attend seminars, field trips, academic enrichment programming, community engagement, career mentoring and advising, and two summer intensive programs. During the first summer, RUSCH students complete a research project while living on campus for eight weeks at UW-Madison. The RUSCH students complete a community health internship (often the AHEC CHIP internship) during their second summer.

Register now:

Presenters and alumni needed for Interprofessional Village at the 2017 Interprofessional Case Competition

A resource fair with a station for each health profession at its own table, the “Interprofessional Village” is an opportunity for college students to explore roles of different health care professionals.

Students will be issued an “IP Passport” to travel among the various stations within the IP village. Healthcare professionals in Wisconsin are eligible to host a table.

Friday, January 13, 2017
9:30am - 11:30am: morning village
12:30pm - 2:30pm: afternoon village

Registration link and more info: www.ahec.wisc.edu/ip-competitions

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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Wisconsin AHEC
(Area Health Education Center)

You’re Invited...

Wisconsin AHEC 25th Anniversary Celebration
Friday, December 2, 2016

Hosted at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC) – 750 Highland Ave. ~ Madison, WI

Program 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ~ HSLC 1345 (lecture hall)
Reception 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. ~ HSLC Atrium

Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health.