



Wisconsin AHEC System (Area Health Education Centers)

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AHEC

Signature Programs — Statewide

Community Health Internship Program

The AHEC summer internship program provides hands-on learning for students, along with assistance to local health departments, community health centers, tribal health centers, and community service agencies to address a variety of public health issues. Each internship has at its core a partnership between AHEC and a local site to accomplish local community health projects while providing mentoring for students interested in health careers and public health. Interns work full-time, for 8 weeks during June and July.

- Milwaukee program: Since 2000, over 520 interns were placed in the Milwaukee area.
- Statewide program: Since 2002, over 490 AHEC interns were placed across the state

Wisconsin Express

Wisconsin Express is a one-week cultural immersion experience for health professions students to study the diverse local and regional healthcare resources and challenges in Wisconsin. Students come together in interprofessional/multidisciplinary small groups of 6-10, and spend the week exploring health topics, teamwork, and local culture at their placement site, guided by a local site coordinator. Established in 1993, the program now places about 100 students/year at one of the 12 regional sites for Wisconsin Express.

Rural & Urban Scholars in Community Health

RUSCH (Rural and Urban Scholars in Community Health) is a longitudinal program for undergraduate students intending to apply to the MD program at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. The program spans two summers and academic years: **Summer 1: research** (8 weeks); **Summer 2: community health internship** (8 weeks). Participants are recruited from partnering universities: UW-Milwaukee, UW-Parkside, UW-Platteville, Spelman College, and Native American Center for Health Professions (NACHP).

Interprofessional Healthcare Case Competition

Teams of college students from all regions of the state compete in this annual event, which invites health professions students to analyze a complex patient case and develop recommendations for interprofessional practices and system-level initiatives designed to result in better outcomes. Top teams (a total of about 50 students) are invited to present their analysis at a statewide competition event, held in the Dells each January since 2014.

Medical Students' Community-based Projects

With support from AHEC, third-year UW medical students conduct community-based service projects. Community partners throughout the state are identified by AHEC staff. The types of projects include: health careers mentoring, health education in school or community settings, enhancing access to health care, or health-related programming. Each medical student placement fills a need identified by the local community partner. Medical students (175/year, since 2011) observe and address health disparities, identify public health topics, and gain skills that are important to their future patient care.

Health Careers Summer Camps

Our unique camp is a collaboration of Wisconsin AHEC regional centers, local colleges, technical schools/colleges, and area healthcare practitioners. These 5-day summer camps are open to high school students living in the AHEC region hosting the camp. Hands-on activities are led by health profession students, instructors and health care professionals. Diversity awareness and leadership skill training are also a part of the camp experience. We typically offer 6 overnight camp sessions/summer, each with about 20 students.