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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Wisconsin Northern Highland AHEC Awarded Funds to Focus on Simulation Experience in Rural Communities and Native Nations”

Wisconsin Northern Highland AHEC, Inc. was awarded a grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the continuation and expansion of an innovative rural mental health and substance use disorder simulation in northern Wisconsin communities. The simulation will bring students, educators, and health and safety professionals together to engage in in-person team-based experiential learning. This award was generously supported by a grant from the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation’s Amy Hunter Wilson, MD Fund.

The expansion of the simulation will take place in Forest County, Wisconsin and allows for collaboration with existing program partner, Forest County Potawatomi (FCP). In recent conversations with FCP, this simulation will support FCP priority health concerns, including tribal mental health, substance misuse, and resiliency.

NH AHEC and FCP will partner to create a simulation program on April 18 - 19, 2024 to be located at FCP Health and Wellness Center. 10 multidisciplinary collegiate level learners will observe the simulation as they participate in an engaging 2-day community health immersion, working in teams to follow a case study scenario throughout the immersion. The learners will get to observe the simulation of a patient experiencing opioid use disorder, engage with healthcare providers, conduct research into evidence-based interventions and resources, and submit their recommendations and findings to community members..

An overview of the learners proposed recommendations will address each of the four aims of the Quadruple Aim:

- improve patient experience,
- Improve community/population health outcomes,
- decrease costs, and
- improve the work life of health care providers

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