



CALIFORNIA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

2014-15

CA AHEC Mission Statement:
To improve access to quality health care for underserved populations of California through academic-community partnerships.

What is AHEC?

Did you know?

- California AHEC (San Joaquin Valley) was one of the first AHECs in the country
- California AHECs are closely affiliated with community clinics and health centers
- Two AHEC centers are participating in the HRSA Teaching Health Center program
- California AHEC Centers have provided outreach, education and enrollment for Covered CA /ACA to their communities by training outreach and education workers and certified enrollment counselors

The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program is 42 years old and is funded by states and the federal government through HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce

AHECs bring together local resources and community based organizations with academic institutions to improve access and quality health care for the underserved communities and populations in the state.

AHEC programs and centers are diverse in their activities, each one responding to the needs of the community it serves

Local community **AHEC** centers develop training programs with academic institutions to provide training experiences within community clinics and health centers, county hospitals, simulation labs and community organizations for health professions students and residents.

AHECs work with K-12 schools, community college and undergraduate programs to increase the diversity of future health professions workforce through career education, job shadowing, summer camps, internships and health clubs. Some AHECs work with national programs such as AmeriCorps and Vista to provide post baccalaureate and post secondary students with community health experiences.

AHECs are equipped to respond rapidly to changing health priorities such as emergency preparedness, veterans mental health, provider burnout and health insurance exchange education and enrollment.

AHEC Program Training Themes

- ◆ Continuing Education programs for health professionals working in underserved sites.
- ◆ Community-based clinical training for health professions students and residents
- ◆ Teaching students and residents to present health education to community members and clinic patients
- ◆ Pipeline programs for underrepresented/ underprivileged K-12 students to increase diversity of future health professionals

For more information about the California AHEC please visit:

www.cal-ahec.org



California AHEC Partnerships

Types of Partnerships	Number
Education	126
Government Agencies	60
Clinical	404*
Community Organizations	149
Total Number of Partnerships	739

*Of the clinical partnerships, 354 (88%) are with community clinics and health centers. Half of *all* partnerships are with clinics and health centers (2011 data)

Fowkes, V. et.al. Forging Successful Academic–Community Partnerships With Community Health Centers: The California Statewide Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Experience.

Program Themes

California Statewide AHEC Centers, Programs and Host Organizations

<u>AHEC Center</u>	<u>Host Organization</u>	Continuing Education	Community–Based Clinical Rotations/Experiences	Teaching Students & Residents to present health information	Programs to increase diversity of future health professionals
North Coast AHEC	North Coast Clinics Network	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern California AHEC	Health Alliance of Northern CA	✓	✓		✓
San Francisco AHEC	San Francisco Comm. Clinic Consortium	✓	✓	✓	✓
East Bay AHEC	Community Clinic Consortium	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Bay AHEC	Community Health Partnership	✓	✓	✓	✓
Central Coast AHEC	Health Projects Center	✓	✓	✓	✓
San Joaquin Valley AHEC	Fresno Healthy Comm. Access Partners	✓	✓	✓	✓
Inland Empire AHEC	Community Clinic Association San Bernardino Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Los Angeles Harbor AHEC	Los Angeles Biomedical Research		✓	✓	✓
East Los Angeles AHEC	AltaMed Health Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Los Angeles AHEC	Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles Co.	✓	✓		✓
Orange County AHEC	Coalition of Orange County Community Clinics	✓	✓	✓	✓
San Diego Border AHEC	Scripps Mercy Hospital Chula Vista	✓	✓	✓	✓



California AHEC Success Stories

In 2013-2014, the California AHEC accomplished:

Continuing education for health professionals practicing in underserved sites

- Over 10,000 practicing HPs participated in trainings on subjects such as disaster preparedness, quality improvement and chronic disease management
- **Community based clinical experiences for health professions students and residents**
- Over 100 community training sites
- Over 2,400 HP students trained
- 85% of training took place in underserved sites

Teaching health professions students to present health education information to communities and clinic patients

- 24 FM residents trained in adolescent medicine ran an obesity clinic and peer education program in an inner city high school
- 10 HP students trained in geriatrics presented health education programs to elderly in US-Mexico border region
- 80 medical students trained in community medicine presented health education materials to community members

Health professions and higher education information and experiences for K-12 students

- Over 10,000 K-12 students contacted
- Over 2,700 students participated in programs
- 72% students are ethnically diverse

North Coast AHEC Student Experience: PA Student at STHS

Southern Trinity Health Services (STHS) is hosting a PA student. He originally worked for the health center as an EMT and chose to pursue a Physician Assistant Certificate at Stanford. He has now chosen to conduct his rotation at STHS with plans to practice there upon completion of the PA program. During the 1st quarter, he conducted a health education outreach program on the importance of cervi-

North Coast AHEC Student Testimonial: PA Student at Open Door CHC

My best experience to date! This is an excellent program within an excellent community health system. I met with the Chief Operations Officer and HR Director while I was there and am so impressed with and in support of the Open Door Community Health Center mission and vision. It aligns with my own mission of changing careers to help make a difference and to serve the people in an underserved area. It is truly heartwarming to see a health system that has lived up to their mission statement for so many decades. This experience reinforced my interest to work in a rural, underserved community and work in a

AHEC Internship Evaluation MSW student-intern at San Ysidro CHC, Chula Vista, CA

I was able to experience what it means to work as part of a multidisciplinary team. Discussing cases with physicians, nurses, psychologists and social workers allowed for a comprehensive perspective on complex cases. The concept of patient centered medical home is where an individual can access a variety of health services and receive coordinated care. My experiences in this environment underscored the importance moving towards delivering services that are patient centered and culturally relevant. Overall I learned a great deal from my experiences at the San Diego Border AHEC and the Scripps Family Medicine Residency program. This experience has laid the foundation for me to continue to grow as a social worker as I move forward in my career. I gained experience working in a diverse setting and with diverse clients. I was able to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the cultural characteristics that affect my clients.

**Contact the
CA AHEC**

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California AHEC Success Stories continued

School to Health Career Mentoring Program graduate, San Diego Border AHEC

A recent participant in the mentoring program, described his involvement as a “once in a lifetime experience both inspired and influenced my career choices because it gave me a better idea of the types of cases doctors see on a day to day basis. It expanded my understanding of the profession by showing me a more human and emotional side that is sometimes hard to see for those staying for a career in medicine.”

Now a student at Yale University with a full-scholarship, he is pursuing a premed degree in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology with a goal to become a Neuroscientist and return to the border region where he was raised.

The student is a real local hero and success story as he comes from Southwest high School which has high drop-out rates and low college completion. He is the first of his family to pursue a college education.

For more success stories from the California AHEC, please visit:

<https://www.aamc.org/advocacy/hpniec/profiles.htm>

CA AHEC stories are listed as Interdisciplinary Community Based Linkages

AHEC Residency Evaluation-(2) Dental Residents at Burre CHC Dental Clinic, Eureka, CA

Participating in this program has been important to us because we have learned about working with and for populations that struggle with access to affordable dental care. This is something that we have planned, since dental school, to focus our careers around, and so this program has been highly valuable in demonstrating the different considerations and logistics that are inherent in under-served dentistry. We have gained a different perspective and creativity in thinking to better help those in need to attain oral health. We have seen the practical and logistical issues involved in a clinic that is devoted to this cause. And our compassion and desire to serve these populations have been increased.

We have found that the residency program has progressed our skills and knowledge a great amount since our graduation from dental school. While in the bigger picture, a one year experience is only one year, we feel that a very critical formative year is completed in which we've gained the competence, the confidence and the compassion needed to serve others as dentists. Perhaps the greatest testament we can offer of our time is that we are excited to remain at the Burre Dental Center and continue serving the community of the North Coast.

AHEC HealthCorps Post Experience Career Plans

Health educator at a school-based health center

M.P.H. at UCLA

Nurse Practitioner training

MPH Global Health at George Washington University then Medical school at UCSF

UCSD School of Medicine PRIME Health Equity program

MPH Maternal/Child Health at Harvard School of Public Health

Clinical research position while completing pre-med requirements.

Attending school to receive MSW

Serving for another year at the Native American Health Center

Medical School at UC-Davis

MSW-UC Berkeley

Staying on at the clinic in an interim position until the end of October, then look for a job at another clinic doing health education.

Hired by CHC as a Health Education Supervisor and mentor for new Community HealthCorps members

Attending USC for a dual degree in Public Health and Social Work with intentions of returning to CHCs after graduation

Hired as clinic coordinator

Hired as the assistant to the CEO at CHC

Hired into an administrative role at CHC and supervises the new Community HealthCorps members.

Attending medical school in Arizona with intentions of returning to community medicine after graduation

Hired as a Development Associate at CHC

**Connecting Students to Careers,
Professionals to Communities and
Communities to Better Health**



Stands for Jobs

NATIONAL AHEC ORGANIZATION