



NORTHERN CA AHEC

www.thehanc.org

The Health Alliance of Northern California (HANC), the host organization for the Northern California Area Health Education Center (NC AHEC) is a regional trade organization of 11 free standing federally qualified health centers, lookalikes, non-profit rural health clinics and Indian health centers located in the eight rural and frontier counties in far Northern California. Even with an interstate highway running through the center of the region, the population is sparse and geographically isolated. Necessities like healthcare, healthy food or even attending school can require community members to take several hours of bus rides each way to access those resources.



UC Davis Rural-PRIME medical students at rural clinic

The NC AHEC focuses on grassroots organizing and development strategies to help address the needs of the communities it serves. Regional isolation makes accessing primary and specialty care services a challenge, and makes recruiting and retaining providers to our communities difficult. In a changing healthcare environment, health workforce development is most important, especially for our rural and remote populations.

Providing a health careers orientation workshop at local high schools and middle schools and introducing students to the many opportunities in health care, especially because there is no medical school or a public university in the region have been primary NC AHEC pipeline strategies in the past. Many of the students have never been on a college campus and many are from families where neither parent has a college degree. Supplementing the school workshops, the NC AHEC sponsors an annual Health Careers Day bringing in students from outlying areas to learn about health professions and has hosted field trips for interested students to visit educational facilities like UC Davis.



HS Students experiences with simulated patient manikin

The NC AHEC also supports the newly established Shasta Community Health Center Teaching Health Center's FM residency program. Future efforts will include advocacy to support expansion of the program.

Focusing locally at each stage of the workforce development continuum is critical. The NC AHEC will focus on short and medium term solutions to increasing the health care provider supply in the communities.

OUTCOMES 2013-14:

- 113 High School students received health careers orientation
- 5 High School students attended HOSA state conference
- 4 High School students and 24 8th graders attended a field trip to RHSI/health careers training
- 4 Residents began their FM Residency at Shasta CHC Family Medicine Residency



FM Residents at Shasta CHC Teaching Health Center

For more information please contact:
David Lavine, Center Director
david@thehanc.org