



NORTH COAST AHEC

The North Coast Area Health Education Center (NC-AHEC), housed within North Coast Clinics Network (NCCN), works with its member health centers and community partners to develop innovative strategies and partnerships to overcome recruitment and retention challenges in rural Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties in Northwestern California. The NC-AHEC focuses its activities in the following five areas:



Dr Carter Wright with dental students at Burre CHC Dental Clinic

- Identifies workforce needs through surveys, interviews, and data aggregation & analysis
- Organizes and promotes multidisciplinary training events and simulation activities
- Provides training, technical assistance, and practice coaching to build Patient Centered Medical Home and Quality Improvement capacity across the Network
- Supports coordination of on-site experiences for health professions & high school students
- Collaborates with community stakeholders and partners to identify and develop recruitment and retention strategies to ensure access to quality health care services on the North Coast.

On a local level, the NC-AHEC works with multiple organizations throughout the community, such as the Independent Practice Association, Medical Society, Consortium for CME, the Center for Rural Policy, academic institutions, family resource centers, public health, social services, and the Department of Health & Human Services. The NC-AHEC collaborates with these long standing partners to maintain a pulse on the workforce needs of our region and to respond in efficient and effective ways to support the health care delivery system. NC-AHEC also extends its network to the state and national level, engaging primary care associations, academic institutions, health care and professional societies, and other AHEC's. Due to the many connections and relationships that the NC-AHEC has forged, North Coast health professionals have received current, evidence-based continuing medical education. Topic areas have included ER/LA Opioid REMS, FIT colorectal cancer screening, motivational interviewing, psychiatric medications 101 for primary care providers, and ABC's of Quality Improvement to name a few. The NC-AHEC has also coordinated provider networking and appreciation events, student clinical rotations and community projects, as well as scholarship and National Health Service Corps education and application assistance. In line with its mission, the NC-AHEC will continue to forge new partnerships and innovate successful strategies to recruit and retain quality health care professionals for our rural, underserved area.



Dr Norman Bell with College of the Redwoods' nursing students during telemedicine simulation exercise

2013-14 OUTCOMES:

- 91 RN students and 70 LVN received clinical training in health centers and simulation centers
- 3 Dental Residents received clinical training in a rural dental health center; 2 have made plans to practice at the clinic after training.
- 35 DO, PA, FNP, RDA, Medical, Social Work and dental students received clinical training in rural health centers and clinics; 2 PA students are committed to practicing at the clinics after training.
- 106 rural health professionals received training on simulated patient manikins

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