



Oregon
Area Health Education Center



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

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Who we are

The Oregon Area Health Education Center was developed in 1990 to recruit, train and retain healthcare professionals committed to underserved populations. Oregon AHEC is a network made up of five regional centers that cover the entire state with a central program office housed at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland.

Mission

Oregon AHEC's mission is to improve the health of individuals in rural and underserved areas through education and workforce development.

Goals

1. Diversity: Preparing a diverse, culturally competent primary care workforce that can address the needs of the communities we serve;
2. Distribution: Improving health care workforce distribution throughout the state, particularly among rural and underserved areas and populations; and
3. Practice Transformation: Developing and maintaining a health care workforce prepared to deliver high quality care in a transforming delivery system, with an emphasis on rural and underserved communities.

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on the past year and look ahead, we can see how the consistent effort of our regional centers and central program office have allowed us to maintain a stable, statewide system to develop a well-prepared, high quality health care workforce to meet the needs of rural and underserved Oregonians.

We are proud of the continued growth and increased participation in our Pathway Programs, Scholars Program and case-based training through our partnership with the Oregon EHCO Network.

Through a competitive federal Simulation Education Training (SET) supplemental grant award, we were able to make state of the art simulation training resources available across 27 counties to help prepare and train our rural partners to handle irregular trauma cases. Oregon AHEC was one of only five AHECs nationwide to be awarded the grant.

We are continuing to develop partnerships to enhance the scope of our work, most recently with Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine (ORCA-FM).

This past year, we welcomed three new faculty members: Kathryn Caba, MHS, PA-C, our new Education Director; Gabriel Andeen, MD, MPH, Faculty Lead for programmatic evaluation; and Andrew Janssen, MS, MD, FAAFP, Faculty Lead for programmatic outreach. They each bring a wealth of experience in rural health care that will boost our programming.

I am also happy to announce my appointment in December to OHSU Assistant Dean of Rural Undergraduate Medical Education. In the role, I'm looking forward to creating and maintaining the critical partnerships necessary to make sure that



OHSU students are learning about health care in rural Oregon.

Together – with our regional centers and the help of institutional and community stakeholders, providers, educators and policy makers – Oregon AHEC looks forward to remaining nimble and innovative to ensure we meet the needs of not just current, but future workforce needs.

DR. ERIC WISER, M.D., FAAFP
DIRECTOR

Oregon AHEC System

Oregon Pacific AHEC

www.opahec.org

Hosted by Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital. The Center serves communities along the Oregon Coast and I-5 Corridor including the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the counties of Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Tillamook, and Yamhill.



Oregon AHEC Program Office

www.ohsu.edu/area-health-education-centers
Hosted by OHSU in Portland.



Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute

www.pacificu.edu/ohwi

Hosted by Pacific University. The Center serves Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties.



Northeast Oregon AHEC

www.neoahec.org

Located on the campus of Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. The Center serves Baker, Gilliam, Hood River, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, and Wheeler counties.



AHEC of Southwest Oregon

www.aviva.health/ahesw

Hosted by Aviva Health in Roseburg. The Center provides services to Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Jackson, and Josephine counties.



Cascades East AHEC

www.cascadeseast.org

Hosted by St. Charles Health System in Bend. The Center serves Central and Southeastern Oregon and includes the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Klamath, and Lake counties.



This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under U77HP03052 Model State Area Health Education Centers.

OUR REGIONAL CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

Our robust programs are designed to inspire Oregon's youth to pursue healthcare careers in rural and underserved settings, support them in becoming health care professionals and provide continuing education once they are established. Our five regional centers provide hub and spoke extension services statewide.



A SAMPLE OF OUR PROGRAMS

Pathway Programs

Our Pathway Programs help develop a pipeline for health care professionals in underserved communities by engaging with students in middle school, high school, community college, undergraduate universities and during a gap year.

Enrichment Programs

This programming expands students' knowledge of health careers and enables them to explore educational pathways. Participants in some programs are eligible to earn college credit, and students receive assistance with college and employment application processes.

- First Steps Program
- Health & Human Performance Pre-apprenticeship Program
- Health Occupations Program

28

Pathway Programs statewide

Pathway Camps

Our immersive summer camps offer high school students in every part of the state healthcare job shadowing, mentorship and the opportunity to learn new skills and hands-on techniques.

The camps include:

- Rural MedQuest
- Juntos MedQuest
- Frontier MedQuest
- MedStars
- Pacific University Synapse
- University of Portland Synapse
- Summer Steps Day Camp

One Day Immersion Programs

For students with an interest in healthcare careers or STEM subjects, these programs provide an immersive day of hands-on learning.

- Investigators in Science
- Diagnosis Day

3,333

Program completers

Background percentage by Pathway student

74%

Program completers
from disadvantaged
backgrounds

44%

Students of color
among program
completers

90%

Program
completers from
rural background

61%

Program
completers
identify as female

Professional Programs

Our Professional Programs, which do not include the AHEC Scholars Program, encourage students to work in underserved communities by providing financial support for clinical rotations in rural and underserved settings.

Pre-health Programs

These programs provide support for students in post-secondary education and promotes the successful completion of professional education.

- Next Steps Program
- Pre-health Societies

ReConnect Gap-Year Fellowship

Through this program, college graduates in Southwest Oregon are connected to fulltime employment as medical scribes, medical assistants and community health workers in rural areas. The fellowship is intended to fill a gap-year while students apply to advanced programs.

Mental Health First Aid

This nationally recognized program is provided by Oregon Pacific AHEC in cooperation with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. We offer this program broadly throughout the community to teach people how to identify signs and symptoms of mental health challenges.

19

Programs statewide

978

Program completers

Continuing Education

Our continuing education programs provide access to high-fidelity education for health professionals and encouragement for professionals to contribute to the health career pathway.

Continuing Education

We provide a variety of educational opportunities, including a suite of Project ECHO programming, ongoing CME coursework and lectures and state-of-the-art simulation training to health professionals designed to reduce professional isolation, disseminate best practices and improve healthcare quality for medically underserved communities.

Tend Health Well-being Workshops

These dynamic, interactive workshops, offered annually to both providers and students, serve to build provider resiliency and reduce burn-out, and help students learn effective ways to thrive in transition.

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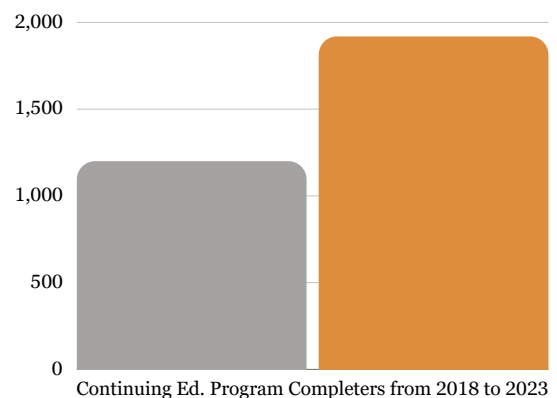
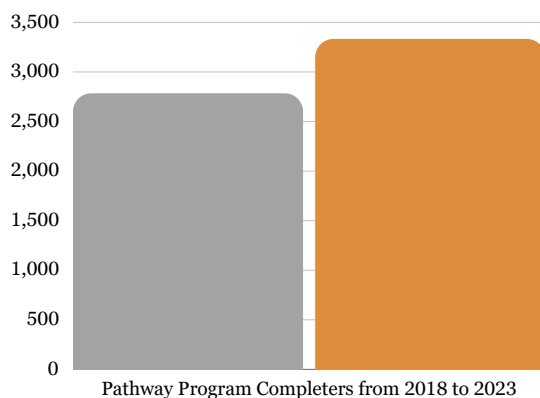
Programs statewide

1,919

Program completers

Increased participation in programs

The number of programs and participants have increased over the years.



SCHOLARS PROGRAM

AHEC Scholars, a two-year national program funded by Health Resources and Services Administration, is designed to better prepare health profession students for future practice in rural and urban underserved communities.

These are our partners:

Oregon Health & Science University

School of Dentistry — DMD

School of Medicine — MD

School of Medicine — PA

School of Nursing — NP

**Oregon Health & Science University
and Oregon State University**

College of Pharmacy — PharmD

Oregon State University — Cascades

Doctor of Physical Therapy — DPT

Pacific University

College of Physician Assistant Studies — PA

College of Pharmacy — PharmD

School of Occupational Therapy — OTD

Western University of Health Sciences

College of Osteopathic Medicine of the
Pacific Northwest — DO

College of Health Sciences NW — DPT

OREGON AHEC PROGRAM
A Member of the National AHEC Organization



AHEC
SCHOLARS

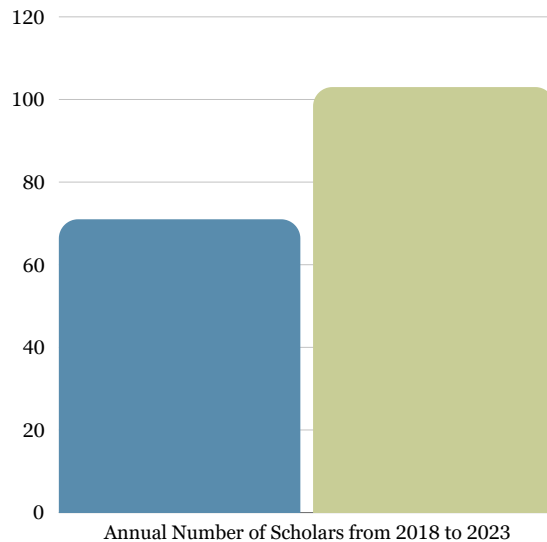
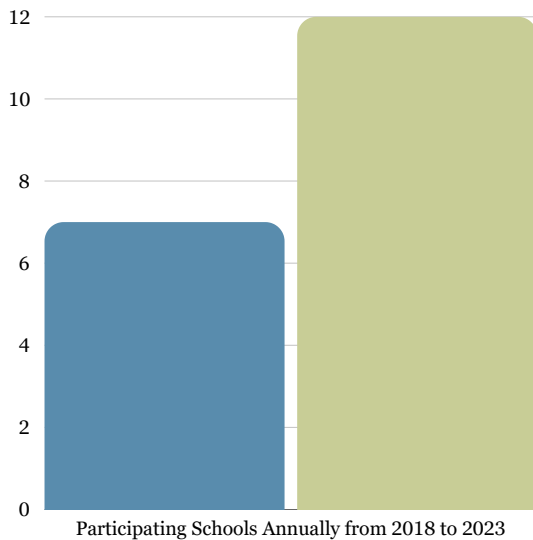
WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY...

"Being a member of the AHEC Scholars Program has truly allowed me to see healthcare through a different lens. I am grateful for the many opportunities the program has provided. Thank you again."

Pacific University PA-S
Class of 2023

TOTAL STUDENTS IN PROGRAM

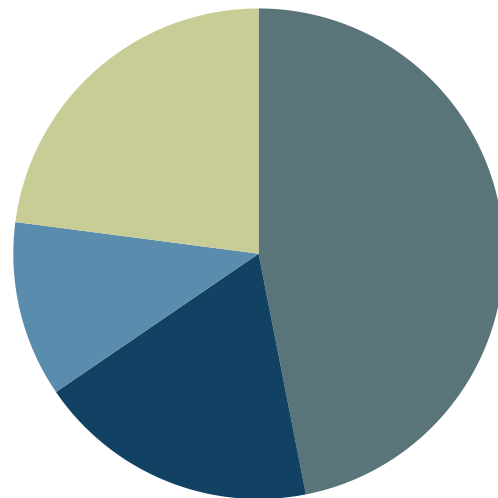
We started the Scholars Program in 2018 with 71 students and seven active programs. We have since expanded to 107 students annually across 12 programs and are in talks to add more. The program is supported by both public and private universities in Oregon and includes students across the professional spectrum, from medical doctors and physician assistants to occupational therapists, pharmacists and physical therapists.



BACKGROUND PERCENTAGE BY COHORT

The majority of our Scholars in the past three cohorts are from disadvantaged or under-represented minority backgrounds.

- From Disadvantaged Background (DB)
- Under-represented minority (URM)
- Both from DB & URM
- Not from DB or URM



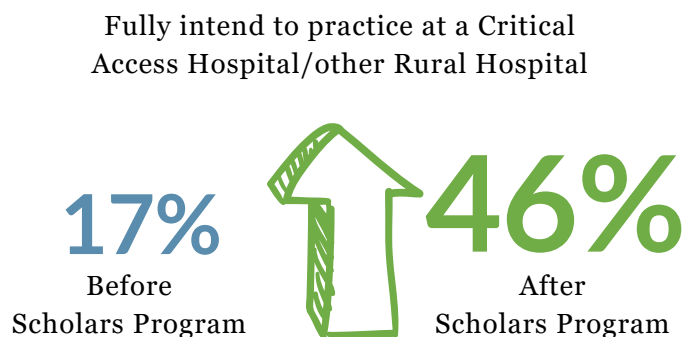
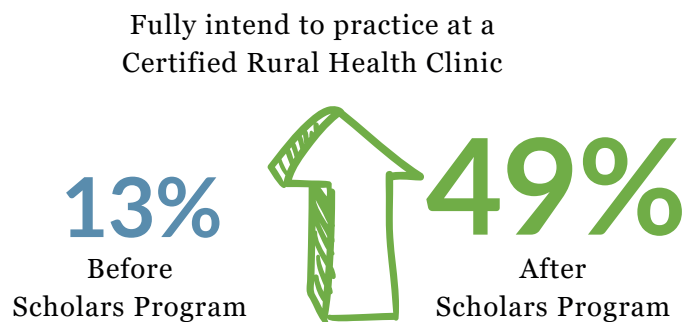
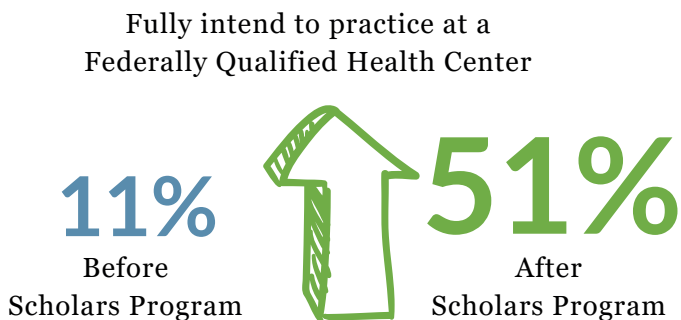
WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY...

"Throughout my 7-year involvement with AHEC through the Brightworks program in high school, through the Reconnect Fellowship, and AHEC Scholars, this organization has been monumental in supporting me throughout my journey to becoming a practicing PA. The organization has offered me many opportunities to network, learn, and be involved in the ever-evolving scene of rural healthcare."

OHSU PA-S
Class of 2024

SCHOLARS PROGRAM DRIVES UP INTEREST IN PRACTICING IN UNDERSERVED AREAS

Significantly more students reported they intend to practice in rural and underserved areas after participating in the Scholars Program than before starting the program.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you for partnering with Oregon AHEC and our mission to improve the health of rural and underserved Oregonians through education and workforce development.

Please consider making a gift today!



Your support of Oregon AHEC will directly benefit health professions students through our student enrichment fund. Students are able to apply for needed financial support to supplement travel and housing costs during rural rotations, attend professional conferences and other educational needs.

Oregon AHEC sustains programs with a diverse mix of funding and support:

Federal grants

Nonprofit grants

State appropriations

Host site contributions

Statewide grants

Other investments

Keep in touch!

Sign up for our newsletter:



ahed@ohsu.edu



(503) 494-2528



www.ohsu.edu/area-health-education-centers



@oregonahedscholars