



Oregon

Area Health Education Center



2020-2021 Annual Report



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural and underserved communities highlighted the importance of Oregon AHEC Program's three goals of diversity, distribution and practice transformation in rural and underserved communities. Working collaboratively across the State, AHEC Centers and AHEC Scholars participating institutions contributed to this collective effort by responding with regionally specific workforce and training needs and enhancing partnerships between communities, academic institutions and community-based organizations. Oregon AHEC secured CARES Act funding to enhance training, protocols and workflows to protect the public's health, expand telehealth capacity, enhance provider resiliency and mitigate burnout. 2175 trainees participated in newly developed or enhanced training activities focused on COVID-19 and 262 trainees across 13 disciplines received training focused on the transition from in person to telehealth or other distance learning clinical training services for and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The second cohort of AHEC Scholars graduated with a program retention rate of 94%. Oregon AHEC provided over \$25,000 in stipends to participants for additional training aimed at preparing a culturally competent future healthcare workforce. Recruitment for cohort four has been the most successful to date, with 92 participants across 10 programs. A partnership between OHWI, AHECSW and the Program Office to develop a digital learning module contains three hours of content so far.

Collaboration and partnerships remain the foundation of success throughout the AHEC Network. AHEC of Southwest Oregon (**AHECSW**) formalized their partnership with Aviva Health, a FQHC in Roseburg that also hosts the Roseburg Family Medicine Residency. Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute (**OHWI**) at Pacific University, continued this partnership with increased programming on current and emerging health topics. Northeast Oregon AHEC (**NEOAHEC**) implemented their hallmark programming of Girls in Science and MedQuest with increased geographic reach throughout the state given the virtual nature of the programming. Cascades East AHEC (**CEAHEC**) partnered with state and national health experts to deliver remote Grand Rounds for more than 700 health professionals seeking continuing education related to COVID 19, Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health. Oregon Pacific AHEC (**OPAHEC**) expanded their continuing education to include Diabetic Management, HPV prevention and Mental and Behavioral Health topics to name a few. The Program Office and the Relational

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE (cont.)

Leadership Institute, implemented a three part series of a learning collaborative bringing together a diverse, inter-professional, cross-generational group of health professionals to develop critical Relational Leadership practices. Oregon AHEC also partnered with Tend Health and OPAHEC to provide 6 webinars and 6 Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) style live-online consultation sessions

for Health Professionals. The Program Office, OPAHEC and Healthy Minds Alliance will host our second AmeriCorps member to instruct on **Mental Health First Aid**, which is an evidence-based course that teaches participants to recognize the signs and symptoms of a potential mental health or substance use challenge and refer a person to appropriate support and services. In the pilot year, the program has already provided a training for 10 staff within the Office of Rural Health and AHEC, as well as training 14 AHEC Scholars for a total of 24 trainees. As we enter the final year of our five year HRSA Grant, we look forward to working collectively in developing a vision for the next five years aimed at improving the health of individuals in rural and underserved areas through education and workforce development. Lastly, Oregon AHEC

and Oregon Project ECHO will be conducting a 6 session seminar series to further develop clinical teaching skills in rural and underserved areas. The pilot program last year was well received and this year we are expanding the program to dentists, clinical pharmacists and physician assistants.





OUR PROGRAMS

Diagnosis Day

A one day experience at St Charles, Bend campus, students from rural and Central Oregon with an interest in health care careers follow a patient from incident—to ambulance—to emergency room throughout the entire hospital experience. Students receive a hands-on-experience with an advanced simulation manikin.

Future Health Professionals of Oregon

FHPO is delivered through Eastern Oregon University's Canvas platform, and facilitated by approved high school teachers at select Oregon schools. Students taking FHPO are exposed to contemporary topics in healthcare, complete 12 hours of healthcare job shadows (or a comparable community project), and research a multitude of health careers.

Girls in Science

An annual event at Eastern Oregon University that provides girls in grades 6-8 with an exciting day of hands-on STEM exploration. This program allows students to dive head-first into an engaging science mystery that explores topics in chemistry, biology, mathematics, and computer science. Watch for annual application instructions and details.

Health Occupations

High school students who are participating in their schools' health occupations or biomedical foundations explore careers at St. Charles Health System (SCHS). Students go through a mandatory 3 hour onsite orientation at the hospital. Many schools offer college credit for students who participate and community medical providers spend time with students interested in health professions.

Health Speaker Series

In conjunction with Eastern Oregon University, the goal of the speaker series is to promote health careers, educate guests about the vast variety of health career options available and the preparation needed for these careers—and answer questions that attendees might have. It provides invaluable networking opportunities between students and current healthcare professionals (or graduate students pursuing medical careers).

Job Shadow

In cooperation with OHSU School of Nursing, COMP-Northwest, and Providence various job shadowing opportunities exist for prospective students to learn about the healthcare field through tours, interactive simulation labs, and surgical viewings.



OUR PROGRAMS *(cont.)*

MedQuest

This immersive camp on the Eastern Oregon University campus and surrounding community exposes high school students to the exciting world of healthcare. Campers complete job shadows with health professionals, participate in panel discussions and local recreational activities, and meet like-minded students from all over the state. Depending on the nature of their job shadows, students may also have the opportunity to witness a surgery, sit in on medical exams or procedures, ride along on an ambulance call, help patients, witness the diagnostic process, and much more.

MedStars

A week-long residence camp for diverse and underserved high school students in Central Oregon. Students engage with and explore the vast career opportunities available in health care. Meant to inspire and nurture students' curiosity about the intricate health care systems through various hands-on activities, learning simulations, daily career speakers and lecture series.

Next Steps

Provides healthcare career, field experiences and educational opportunities for college students connecting them with healthcare professionals to enrich the student learning experience as they prepare for professional/terminal degree programs in healthcare fields. The program also supports high school students as they transition from high school to college, providing mentoring and guidance as they move forward on their preparatory pathway.

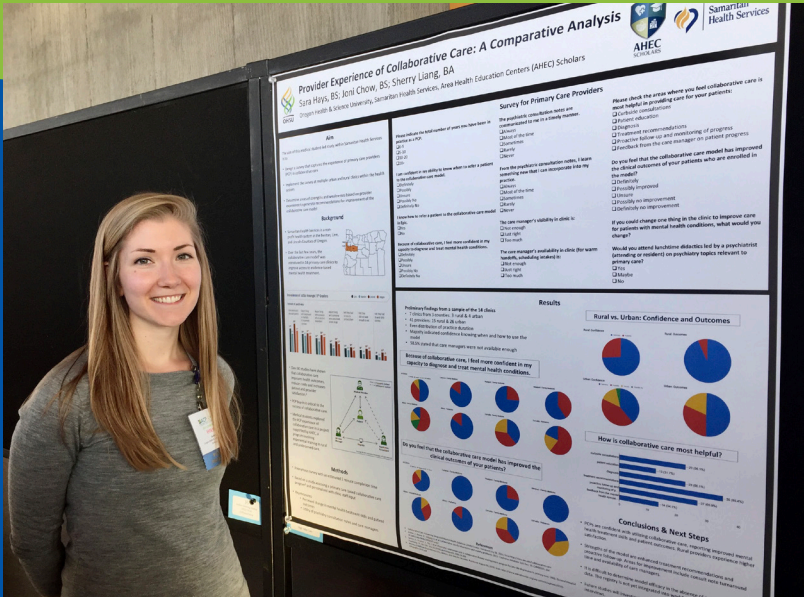
Pathways

Helps students create connections with healthcare providers and employers while providing workshops on college and career readiness. Students are assisted with completing college, scholarship and employment applications pursuing a career in the field of health. Additionally, Pathways students participate in career related skills workshops, career exploration and health career fairs offered at community colleges.

Reconnect Scribe Program

Graduates from Bachelor programs are employed full-time as medical scribes in a rural clinical setting as they are simultaneously gaining patient- contact hours. This often fills a gap-year while they are applying to advanced health profession programs.

SCHOLAR HIGHLIGHTS



AHEC Scholars frequently make substantial contributions that benefit fellow learners and the community. Below are just a few highlights:

- “Collaborative Care in Rural Primary Care Clinics: A Comparative Analysis”—a poster by OHSU student Sara Hays (*pictured above*), Joni Chow and Sherry Liang, and mentored by Eric Wiser, M.D., Tim McCarley, M.D., and David Simmons, M.D.
- Cultural Humility Series—A four-part series created and hosted by the Physician Assistant Diversity in Medicine student group, which was founded by OHSU graduate Amanpreet Kaur, who was also a 2021 recipient of the Sandra Ford Award for Service and Advocacy.
- “The Impact of Rurality on Health Professional Student Attitudes and Motivations to Pursue a Rural Career”—a poster by OHSU graduate Derek Wiseman, mentored by Patricia Carney, Ph.D. and Eric Wiser, M.D.
- “Increasing Awareness of Birth Control Options for Malheur County Teens”—a poster by Pacific University graduates Audrey Andersen, Kyle Green and McKenna Chandler.
- Pisacano Leadership Foundation—OHSU student, Jordan Gemelas, was one of nine 2021 scholarship awardees, provided by the American Board of Family Medicine.
- Strength of Alaska Native Miniseries—A three-part CME series developed by PacificU student Robin Demoski in partnership with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

AHEC SCHOLARS



AHEC
SCHOLARS

[AHEC Scholars](#) is a longitudinal, interdisciplinary program for health professions students with a defined set of clinical, didactic and community-based training activities in rural and/or underserved areas. The program is a partnership between the following programs:

George Fox University

College of Medical Science—PA (2022)

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)

School of Dentistry
School of Medicine—M.D.
School of Medicine—P.A.
School of Nursing—B.S.N. (OPACT)
School of Nursing—N.P.

OHSU & Oregon State University

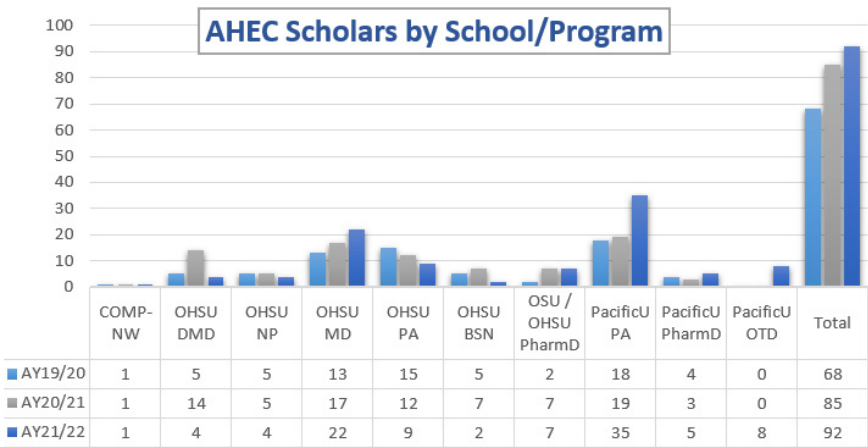
College of Pharmacy

Pacific University

School of Occupational Therapy
School of Physician Assistant Studies
School of Pharmacy

Western University of Health Sciences

College of Health Sciences—DPT Oregon (2022)
College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific Northwest



AHEC SCHOLARS *(cont.)*

In cohort 2, sixty-seven (67) students completed the program and graduated from their degree program, representing more than 10,700 hours of team-based experiential and didactic training focused on preparing them to address the specific healthcare needs of rural and underserved communities

Current enrollee data:

174 health professions students actively enrolled

- 9% are Veterans
- 34% identify as under-represented minority
- 41% from a disadvantaged background
- 55% from a rural background

AHEC Scholars Program Recruitment Highlights

- Pacific University School of Occupational Therapy began participating in 2021
- Western University College of Health Sciences—DPT Oregon and George Fox College of Medical Sciences—Physician Assistant students are anticipated to begin participating in 2022
- Developed two eLearning Modules to support didactic training

AHEC Scholars Programming Highlights

- On February 23, Oregon, WWAMI, Alaska, California and High Sierra AHECs collaborated co-host a regional panel discussion for 88 learners following a viewing of the acclaimed documentary, *Black Men in White Coats*. Panelists included Derick DuVivier, M.D., M.B.A.; Gerald Tolbert, M.D.; LTC Christopher Weissman, M.D.; and Thelma Hurd, M.D., M.P.H.; with Adrian Boscolo-Hightower, M.D. moderating. We are grateful to the panelists and moderator for sharing their experiences and insights.
- On April 13th, 100 AHEC Scholars attended the first National AHEC Scholars Networking Event, which included a healthcare panel, followed by breakout sessions with hiring managers, recruiters and providers. ORAHEC recruited several of the panelists and small group facilitators, including: Dr. Joyce Hollander-Rodriguez from Cascades East Family Medicine Residency, Dr. Chip Taylor, and Stacey Reed and Bill Pfunder from the Oregon Office of Rural Health.
- The NAO Education Committee developed an AHEC Scholars Track for the 2021 bi-annual conference. Dr. Eric Wiser and Linda Martin-Stanger lead development of 10 hours of interprofessional Community-based Experiential Learning curriculum that focused on historical trauma, cultural humility and social determinants of health.



2020-2021 Federal Report Highlights

Enhancing access to quality healthcare, particularly primary and preventive care, by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals through community/academic educational partnerships.

5,023

Program participants

Pipeline programs expose students to health careers and develop intent to pursue postsecondary education in primary healthcare professions.



1,090

grades 9-16 students

COVID 19 CARES Act Telehealth

activities focused on transition from in-person to telehealth or other distance learning clinical training services.



2,175

Telehealth training participants

Clinical training

improves readiness, willingness, and ability of health professions trainees to serve in primary care, rural and underserved community settings.

facilitated

80

weeks of OHSU MD clinical student rotations in rural communities.

140

health professions students placed in rural and underserved locations

- 30 medical students
- 9 nurse practitioner students
- 63 physician assistant students
- 16 dental students
- 17 pharmacy students
- 5 nursing students



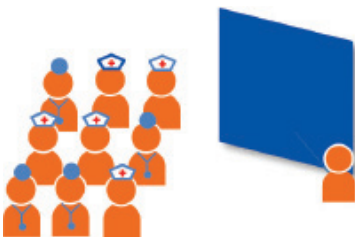
Training sites used include:

- 15 critical access hospital
- 11 FQHCs
- 15 medically underserved community
- 17 rural health clinics
- 1 tribal health clinic

Continuing education programs

address key issues in health professional shortage areas by providing health professionals with access to resources that support practice, reduce professional isolation, disseminate

best practices, and improve quality of healthcare for medically underserved communities and health disparities populations.



1,758

continuing education participants

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 counties of Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Tillamook and Yamhill.

AHEC of Southwest Oregon

www.healthyoregon.com

Located in Roseburg, the center provides services to the counties of Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Jackson and Josephine.

Oregon AHEC Program Office

Hosted by OHSU

Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute

www.oregonhwi.org

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.

Cascades East AHEC

www.cascadeseast.org

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



Oregon
Area Health Education Center

For more information on Oregon AHEC visit: www.ohsu.edu/xd/outreach/ahec

Oregon AHEC Regional Centers

AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER OF SOUTHWEST OREGON

AHECSW | www.healthyoregon.com

CASCADES EAST AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

CEAHEC | www.cascadeseast.org

NORTHEAST OREGON AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

NEOAHEC | www.neoahec.org

OREGON HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE INSTITUTE

OHWI | www.oregonhwi.org

OREGON PACIFIC AREA HEALTHCARE EDUCATION CENTER

OPAHEC | www.opahec.org

OREGON AHEC PROGRAM OFFICE

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