

## Are You Interested?

Interested students or residents should contact an AHEC representative at the site location of interest. See map below.

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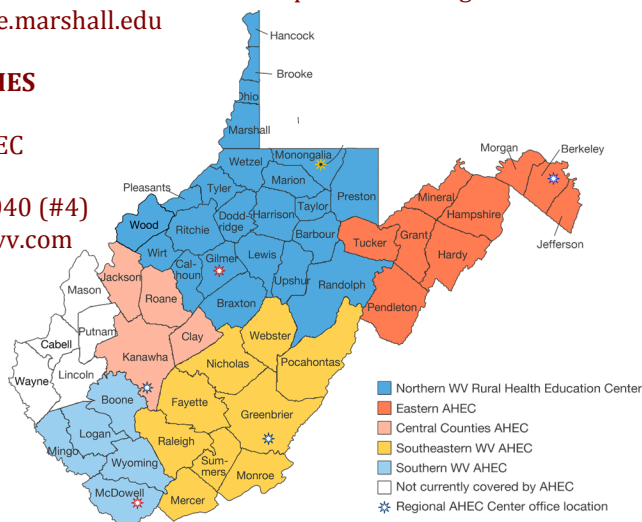
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**WV SEARCH is administered by the  
WV Area Health Education Centers Program**

**Our primary partner is the  
WVU Institute for Community and Rural Health**



## Student/Resident Experiences And Rotations In Community Health

2013 - 2014

## WV SEARCH Program

~ A WV AHEC Project ~

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## MISSION

*WV SEARCH provides opportunities for health professions students and medical residents to develop and implement health-related projects individually, or as Interprofessional Teams (IPT), while serving in underserved communities.*

April 2014

## What is WV SEARCH ?

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The WV Student/Resident Experiences And Rotations in Community Health Program awards stipends to select health professions trainees who demonstrate strong potential for future practice in underserved areas of West Virginia.

WV SEARCH awards stipends to students/residents, regardless of their university affiliation, who are pursuing careers in health care. All applicants must be considered full time and in good standing with their respective

## WV SEARCH Program Facts

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Preference will be given to applicants who:

1. are presently National Health Service Corp scholars enrolled in a WV school
2. have strong ties to rural WV
3. have an interest in rural health as demonstrated through previous activities

Students/Residents agree to rotate in a Federally Designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or a Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) with a code of 7 or above.

HPSA data may be found at <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/HPSASEARCH.aspx>  
RUCA codes at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwruca/ruca-download.php>  
(use zip code of rotation site).

SEARCH experiences are generally 4-6 weeks long and rotation logistics (dates and locations) are scheduled by the various health professions schools.

*\*Students must have liability coverage through their academic institution or with private insurers.*

## Stipend Awards

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Participating Residents will receive stipends of \$75 for each 8 hour day for clinical and project participation. Students will receive stipends of \$50 for each 8 hour day of the SEARCH experience, for a maximum of 100 days per stipend year.

SEARCH stipends are taxable, and may or may not affect the participant's tax debt, dependent upon other factors.

## WV SEARCH Program Categories

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### 1. Individual SEARCH Participants:

- must be preparing for careers in primary care Medicine, Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner, or Dentistry
- must plan and implement a community project

All eligible students must have completed one year of their professional training (medical and dental students two years).

### 2. SEARCH Interprofessional Team (IPT) Participants:

As teamwork and interprofessional practice and learning are becoming increasingly integral to health care, WV SEARCH has integrated the IPT concept as a vital part of this Program. It is anticipated that these approaches can maximize professional resources and optimize patient care.

**All students of disciplines eligible as Individual Participants are also eligible as IPT participants.** During the SEARCH application process, AHEC staff may offer the opportunity to participate on an IPT.

***In addition to individual participants, the following disciplines are eligible only as members of the IPT:*** Nursing (BSN and MSN), Pharmacy, Dental Hygiene, Physical Therapy, Graduate Social Work, Graduate Psychology, and Graduate Public Health.

**Students interested in participating as an IPT member should contact AHEC staff located within the region of the clinical rotation.**

### Mandatory SEARCH Community Project:

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In addition to clinical work, approved SEARCH students/residents and Interdisciplinary Teams (as a group) are required to plan and implement a Community Project.

Through the planning and implementation of the Community Project, the SEARCH participant should conduct research to determine the needs of the community and design a project to address that need. The Community Project is expected to provide opportunities for students to interface with the community, thereby enriching the SEARCH experience. A written summary of the completed Community Project is required of each participant. Each member of the IPT is required to submit a written summary of the team project.