



WV AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS

Mission Statement

Improve the health of our communities by developing an interdisciplinary workforce prepared to address the health needs of rural and underserved communities of West Virginia.

AHEC Objectives

1. Introduce health profession careers and/or academic enhancement to K-16 students with an emphasis on high school schools from a minority population or underserved areas.
2. Provide health professions students and residents with clinical experiences in community-based settings with an emphasis on rural and underserved settings.
3. Promote the optimal use of the healthcare workforce and improve quality of care delivered through interprofessional collaboration.
4. Strengthen the existing healthcare workforce in rural and underserved areas and support the retention of community-based health professionals.

Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) Program

WV AHEC administers the SEARCH Program, which offers daily stipends to students as encouragement to participate in community-based clinical and service learning experiences.

West Virginia University Rural Experiences Project

WV AHEC partners with the WVU Institute for Community and Rural Health to facilitate community based rotations for Health Professions students and select students from other in-state institutions. AHECs work closely with students placed with preceptors providing health and dental care within the geographical area of the AHEC. Housing is provided for students and the AHEC Center attempts to meet the student's off-campus needs. While gaining clinical experience from local preceptors, students are also provided opportunities to participate in AHEC-led interprofessional education events and community service learning projects. Community rotations play an important role in recruitment and retention of health care providers in underserved areas of WV.

WV AHEC serves all of West Virginia by.....

Connecting students to careers,
professionals to communities,
and communities to better health

- ★ Pipeline activities and projects such as the Moving Onward and Upward (MOU) program that consists of shadowing and career awareness activities for high school students.
- ★ Interprofessional Education experiences such as those that involve residents and students who participate in an interdisciplinary competency-related activity at an FQHC.
- ★ Continuing education programs on topics such as cultural competency, geriatric skills, and substance abuse.
- ★ Wellness/fitness collaboratives with schools and other community partners.
- ★ Partnerships with the WVU Institute for Community and Rural Health, the WV Bureau for Public Health, the WV Higher Education Policy Commission and other organizations to provide special initiatives and leadership.

Federal funding for AHEC is provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions.
Federal funding must be matched dollar for dollar with state funds.

