It is my pleasure to present the 2013-2014 Alaska AHEC Annual Report. I recently took over as director of the Alaska AHEC Program, but I am not new to this amazing team of individuals and organizations dedicated to improving healthcare for the great state of Alaska. I served as director of the Northwest AHEC in Barrow for two years.

This report is a direct product of countless hours of hard work and dedicated efforts of our staff members throughout the state. We would like to share the results we have seen over the past year. Whether it be the rural clinical experiences of a single student, courses enhancing the abilities of our providers, or proof of the consistent endeavors of students pursuing their passion for healthcare, AHECs have been both present and supportive.

With dwindling funds and novel challenges set forth by the rapidly transforming American healthcare system, AHECs have managed to hold ground and continue to provide high-quality results. We urge you to engage your regional center, partner with our program office, and invest your support towards a program that continues to strengthen Alaska’s healthcare workforce.

Gloria Burnett, MS
Director, ACRH/Alaska’s AHEC
907.786.6705 / gburnett3@uaa.alaska.edu

Alaska AHEC Steering Committee

The Alaska AHEC Steering Committee’s role is to advise program activities and advocate for sustainability. Each member plays a vital role in ensuring that the Alaska AHEC remains a viable statewide resource and meets the needs of our diverse healthcare industry.

- **Suzanne Allen, MD, MPH**, Assistant Dean, Regional Affairs and Rural Health, UW School of Medicine
- **Kathleen Barrows**, Director, Mission Services, Providence Health and Services Alaska
- **Barbara Berner, EdD, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP**, Director, School of Nursing, University of Alaska Anchorage
- **Andrew Bertapelle, RN/BSN, MBA**, Director, Nursing, Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital
- **Patricia Carr, MPH**, Director, Alaska State Office of Rural Health, State of Alaska, Division of Public Health
- **Paula Easley**, Member, Board of Trustees, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- **Gena Edmiston, RN**, Chief Nursing Officer, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
- **Jan Harris, MS, FACHE**, Vice Provost, Health Programs Development, University of Alaska Anchorage
- **Birgit Meany EdD**, Dean of Instruction, Ilisagvik College
- **Nancy Merriman, MPH, MBA**, Chair, Executive Director, Alaska Primary Care Association
- **Thomas Nighswander, MD, MPH**, Assistant Dean, Alaska WWAMI Regional Affairs, UW School of Medicine
- **Jacqueline S Pflaum**, Associate Vice Provost, Office of Health Programs, University of Alaska Anchorage
- **Fred Villa**, Associate Vice President, UA Workforce Programs, University of Alaska
- **Dan Winkelmann, JD**, Chief Executive Officer/President, Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
- **Elizabeth Woodyard, MEd, MSN**, Vice Chair, Chief Executive Officer, Petersburg Medical Center

Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) are academic and community-based partnerships engaged in primary care workforce engagement, training, recruiting, and retaining activities to improve the distribution, diversity, supply, and quality of the healthcare workforce.

The national AHEC program is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Workforce (HRSA). The Alaska AHEC began at the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2005 and was the first in the country to be awarded to a School of Nursing, rather than a School of Medicine. The five Alaska regional centers conduct educational activities to engage and expose students to primary care delivery in a rural and/or underserved setting, and to provide Continuing Education/Professional Development (CE/PD) to current health professionals.
HIGHLIGHTS

The Alaska AHEC engages Alaskans of all ages into a wide variety of health careers through Health Careers Promotion and Preparation (HCPP) activities. These include:
- Outreach Presentations
- Job Shadows
- Intensive Structured Programs
- Certificate Level Programs
- Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Chapters

“Villages can get bad because of where we live, and it’s much harder for us. At first I felt like there is nothing we can do about it, but now I feel like I want to get out there and help the community get better...health is really, really important.” – Angelica Lane, Point Hope, age 16 (HCPP student)
HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical rotations are typically required clinical experiences that health professions students must complete in order to successfully finish the program. AHEC strives to facilitate rotations at rural and underserved sites in Alaska to expose students to care delivery in these settings where hard-to-fill vacancies persist. To better prepare students for rural rotations, a set of regional cultural attunement modules were developed. These can be found at www.alaskaahec-rotations.org.

“AHEC made it possible for me to do an internship at the EAT [Eastern Aleutian Tribe] clinic in Sand Point in 2010. Without their help and encouragement, I would not have the dream job I have today, which is being a family nurse practitioner in the Camai Community Health Center in Naknek. Thank you AHEC!” - Teresa Catlin, ANP (former CR student)
Highlights

The Alaska AHEC Program supports workforce retention by coordinating and distributing information about continuing education and professional development (CE/PD) opportunities to healthcare workers. Highlighted activities for FY 2014 include:

- **Healing Our Heroes: Competencies for Healthcare Providers and Community Advocates** – Collaboratively developed with the VA and AHECs in Washington and Oregon to improve access to care for rural Veterans. Two trainings were held in Soldotna and Bethel with 89 participants.

- **Geriatric Education Series** – Offered by the UW Northwest Geriatric Education Center and coordinated by the Alaska AHEC Program office. Twenty 1.5-hour webinars were broadcast to over 30 host sites statewide with 215 unique registered participants.

Training Evaluation Results (1,362 received)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Webinar (N=1,193)</th>
<th>In-Person (N=169)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied training to license or certification</td>
<td>969 (81.2%)</td>
<td>118 (69.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan to implement practice change</td>
<td>629 (52.7%)</td>
<td>124 (73.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased their knowledge</td>
<td>943 (79.0%)</td>
<td>154 (91.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overview of Continuing Education/Professional Development (CE/PD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events (N=84)</th>
<th>Education Hours Offered (N=290)</th>
<th>Total Attendance Hours (N=6,567)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55.3%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Self-paced | Live webinar | In person

Total CE/PD Participation by Profession (N=2,451)

- Allied Health, 121
- BHS/SW, 234
- CNA/NA, 147
- Community Health Aide, 328
- Health Admin, 183
- Human Services, 180
- RN/LPN, 949
- Other, 152
- Public Health, 75
- Physician, 17
- NP/PA, 65

Note: Includes 864 individuals, many of whom attended more than one training.

“A great course, it has turned on some light bulbs and I will definitely put some of these skills into my practice.” -CE student

“Thank you so much for giving us a chance to continue our education and better serve our community in North Slope Borough!” -CE student
AK CACHE

The Alaska CACHE is a web-based system that increases access to ongoing Continuing Education/Professional Development (CE/PD) for staff working in healthcare facilities by creating a single-access point that can be utilized by all CE Providers and employers. The system allows users to do all of the following: search for current CE/PD events by profession, topic, or host; manage and track completed trainings; receive new training notifications; post upcoming events; track attendance and registration; and download reports.

Visit AK CACHE online!
www.akcache.org

LONG-TERM TRACKING

The Alaska AHEC Program began long-term tracking of former AHEC participants in 2011. Various methods are used, including the National Student Clearinghouse that supplies university/degree information, long term tracking surveys sent each spring (since 2012), phone calls, and Internet searches. This year, the Program Office reviewed the data collected on past participants to see where our students are now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alaska CACHE</th>
<th>Total members since registration opened in summer 2012</th>
<th>878</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members that joined or accessed site Sep 1, 2013 to Aug 31, 2014</td>
<td>386</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainings posted since site launched in summer 2011</td>
<td>501</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live trainings with start dates Sep 1, 2013 to Aug 31, 2014</td>
<td>129</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live trainings currently posted</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-paced courses currently posted</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Since 2006, a total of 3,150 HCPP students have participated in our programs. The following is a list of where these students are today:
- 205 are enrolled in or graduated from a health degree program
- 1,097 were enrolled in or completed a certificate level program
- 61 are enrolled in or graduated from a science degree program
- 49 are enrolled in or graduated from a non-health degree program
- 185 are shown as enrolled at a university

* Based on long-term tracking data from students participating in an AHEC activity since 2006.
Alaska CACHE
www.akcache.org
Alaska AHEC manages the Alaska CACHE, A Clearinghouse for Alaska’s Continuing Health Education. This web resource connects all health professionals, associations, and facilities to CE/CME opportunities in our state—a great benefit to our time-challenged rural and urban healthcare providers alike.

Alaska AHEC Clearinghouse for Clinical Rotations
www.alaskaahec-rotations.org
The Alaska Clearinghouse for Clinical Rotations provides information for students looking for clinical rotation placements in Alaska. The website includes information about our regional AHEC centers, frequently asked questions, cultural attunement modules, and a downloadable application.

Alaska Health Careers Resources
www.healthcareersinalaska.info
Alaska AHEC maintains the Alaska Health Careers in Alaska website, which includes over 50 career descriptions; profiles of Alaska health professionals; career exploration ideas; a listing of health/science camps and internships; links to Alaska academic health programs; health curricula for educators; and much more.