

2014 Annual Report

Strengthening Alaska's healthcare workforce

Alaska AHEC Program



UAA Alaska Center for Rural Health
- Area Health Education Center
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

AlaskaAHEC
Area Health Education Centers



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

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.

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, MSHA, 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 Winkelman, JD**, Chief Executive Officer/President, Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
- **Elizabeth Woodyard, MEd, MSN**, Vice Chair, Chief Executive Officer, Petersburg Medical Center



Alaska AHEC Centers



Northwest AHEC

Hosted at Ilisagvik College
Amanda Sialofi, Director
www.nwahecak.org

Northwest AHEC

Interior AHEC

Hosted at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Lillian Ruedrich, Director
www.interiorahec.org

Interior AHEC

Southeast AHEC

Hosted at Peacehealth Ketchikan Medical Center
Carlen Williams, Director
www.seakahec.org

South Central AHEC

Yukon Kuskokwim AHEC

Yukon Kuskokwim AHEC

Hosted at Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
Susan Charles, Director
www.ykhc.org/careers/health-education-center

South Central AHEC

Hosted at Providence Health and Services Alaska
Elizabeth Imbo-Walsh, Director
www.scahecak.org

Southeast AHEC

HEALTH CAREERS PROMOTION AND PREPARATION

ALASKA AHEC GOAL AREA

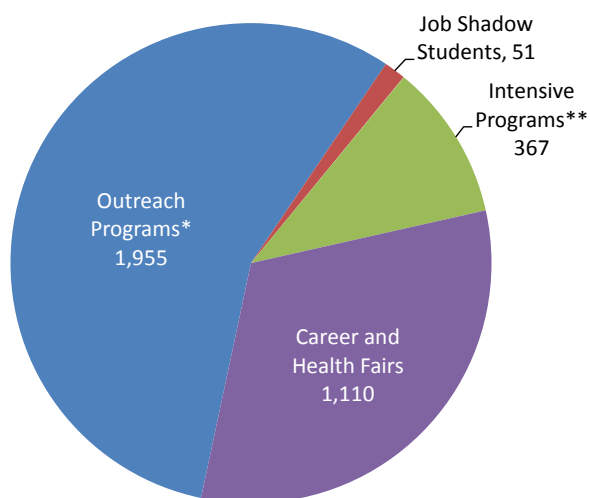
HIGHLIGHTS

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



Types of Programs HCPP Students Participated in Statewide (N=3,483)



*Outreach includes career advising, presentations, tours, skill-building courses (like CPR), and Pre-med Summit.

**Generally 20 hours or more.

"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)



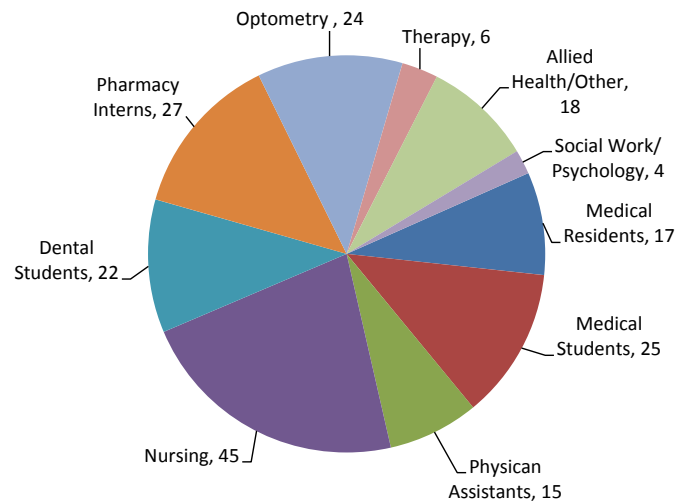
HIGHLIGHTS

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.



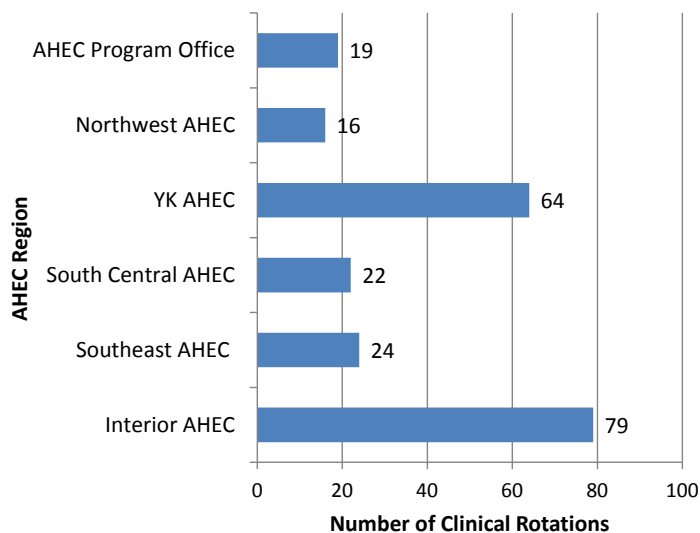
Teresa Catlin relaxing after a skijor race with her dogs.

Clinical Rotation Students by Health Field (N=203)



"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)

Number of Clinical Rotations by AHEC Region (N=224)



CONTINUING EDUCATION

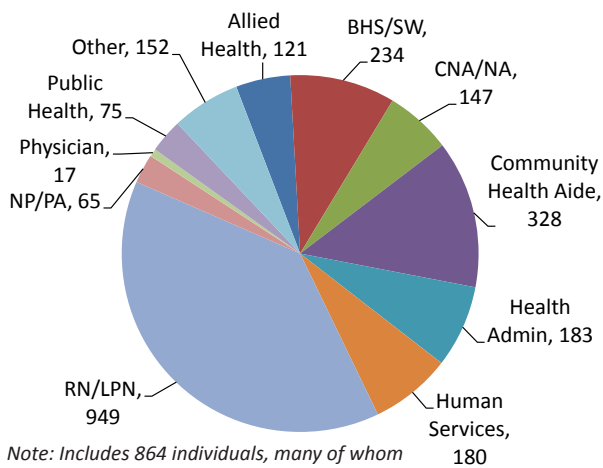
ALASKA AHEC GOAL AREA

HIGHLIGHTS

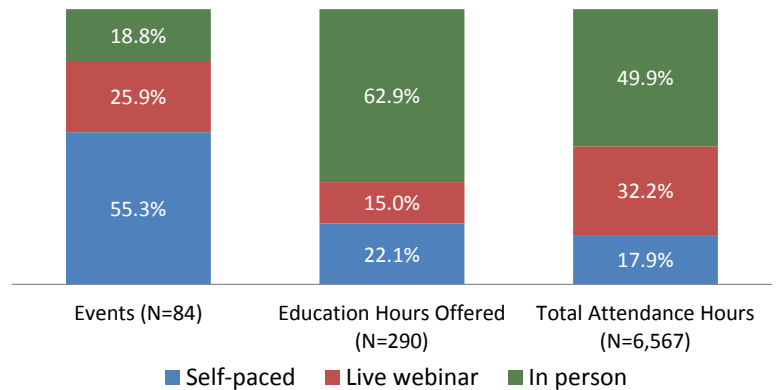
The Alaska AHEC Program supports workforce retention by coordinating and distributing information about continuing education and professional development (CE/PD) opportunities to healthcare workers. Highlighted activities for FY 2014 include:

- **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.

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



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



Training Evaluation Results (1,362 received)		Webinar (N=1,193)		In-Person (N=169)	
Measures		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Applied training to license or certification		969	81.2%	118	69.8%
Plan to implement practice change		629	52.7%	124	73.4%
Increased their knowledge		943	79.0%	154	91.1%



"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



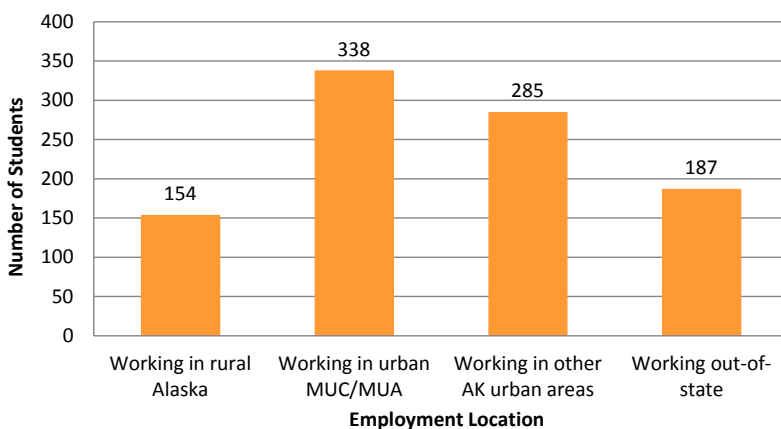
Alaska CACHE	
Total members since registration opened in summer 2012	878
Members that joined or accessed site Sep 1, 2013 to Aug 31, 2014	386
Trainings posted since site launched in summer 2011	501
Live trainings with start dates Sep 1, 2013 to Aug 31, 2014	129
Live trainings currently posted	28
Self-paced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

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.



AHEC Students Employed in Healthcare (N=964)*



* Based on long-term tracking data from students participating in an AHEC activity since 2006.

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

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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.



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 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.

Phone: 907-786-6579
Fax: 907-786-6573
Email: uaa_ahec@uaa.alaska.edu
www.uaa.alaska.edu/acrh-ahec



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