

2015 Annual Report

Strengthening Alaska's healthcare workforce

Alaska AHEC Program



UAA Alaska Center for
Rural Health and Health Workforce
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

AlaskaAHEC
Area Health Education Centers



The 2014-2015 Alaska Annual Report is a wonderful representation of all the hard work and dedication AHEC staff contribute throughout the state. In my first year as AHEC Program Director I have been blessed to forge a path of new partnerships, enhance youth programming, and welcome

new AHEC staff to our family. The AHEC Program Office has undergone some organizational transitions moving from UAA Academic Affairs to the UAA College of Health. Along with this move, the home of the AHEC Program Office has undergone a name change and is now part of the Alaska Center for Rural Health and Health Workforce.

Pipeline programming is a long-term investment and many times it is difficult to paint a picture of our efforts within an annual snapshot. It takes time for students to meander the many twists and turns of their educational journeys. This year, we have decided to feature the story of two very special people who I have personally watched grow and blossom into healthcare professionals before my eyes.

It is my hope that sharing their story will highlight the power of the AHEC program in transforming the lives of Alaskans and improving the future of healthcare in our great state.

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

AHEC Mission & Organization

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.

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
- **Carol Barnett**, Chief Human Resources Officer, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
- **Barbara Berner, EdD, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP**, Director, School of Nursing, University of Alaska Anchorage
- **Patricia Carr, MPH**, Director, Alaska State Office of Rural Health, State of Alaska, Division of Public Health
- **Curtis Clough**, State CTE Administrator, State of Alaska, Department of Education & Early Development
- **Terri Doughman-Billings**, Assistant Director of Nursing, Maniilaq Health Center
- **Paula Easley**, Member, Board of Trustees, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- **Jan Harris, DHA, FACHE**, Center Director, Alaska Center for Rural Health and Health Workforce, University of Alaska/UAA
- **Kathleen Hollis**, Director, Mission Services, Providence Health and Services Alaska
- **Birgit Meany EdD**, Dean of Instruction, Ilisagvik College
- **Nancy Merriman, MPH, MBA**, Chair, Executive Director, Alaska Primary Care Association
- **Jeannie Monk**, Senior Program Officer, Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association
- **Thomas Nighswander, MD, MPH**, Assistant Dean, Alaska WWAMI Regional Affairs, UW School of Medicine
- **Jacqueline S Pflaum**, Director, Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Native Nurses (RRANN) Program, University of Alaska Anchorage
- **Ken Tonjes**, Chief Administrative Officer, PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center
- **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



MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR TEAM

Mari Selle, MPH, SCAHEC Director, brings to the AHEC program a strong background in rural health policy and program development. Previously, she worked on the executive management team for a small rural hospital, managed a health care consulting business, and worked on health policy and research within state government and the university systems. Mari enjoys playtime with her young children and getting out in the Alaskan outdoors.

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

Southeast
AHEC

Yukon Kuskokwim AHEC

Yukon Kuskokwim AHEC

Hosted at Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
Jennifer Nixon, Interim Director
Currently no website

South Central
AHEC

South Central AHEC

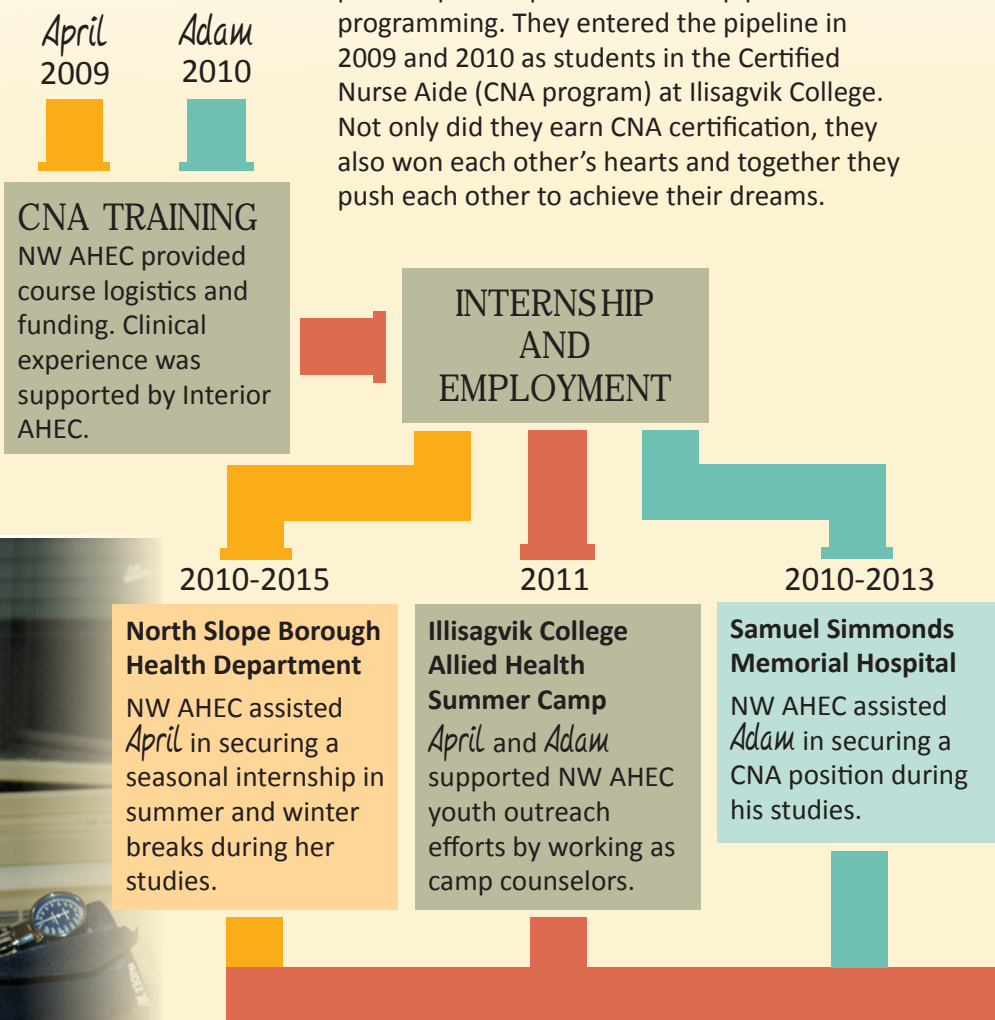
Hosted at Alaska Primary Care Association
Mari Selle, Director
www.scahecak.org

AHEC PIPELINE PROGRAMMING

A pipeline is commonly used to visually describe the workforce development process. Individuals enter at one end and wind through a sequence of turns and check points where there are opportunities for inputs, such as presentations, job shadows, and summer camps and, likewise, for leaks, such as life distractions, poor academic standing, and loss of interest.

The AHEC program's ultimate goal is achieved when a rural student graduates from a health program of study and returns to their home community to practice healthcare.

The journey of April Phillip and Adam Burnett paints a perfect picture of AHEC pipeline programming. They entered the pipeline in 2009 and 2010 as students in the Certified Nurse Aide (CNA program) at Ilisagvik College. Not only did they earn CNA certification, they also won each other's hearts and together they push each other to achieve their dreams.



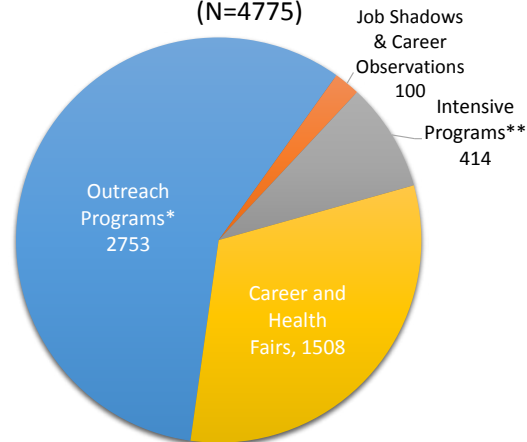
HEALTH CAREERS PROMOTION AND PREPARATION

Just as the NW AHEC engaged April and Adam into health career pathways, AHECs across the state continue to enter the healthcare career pipeline. Some highlights from 2015 include:

- Program Office developed a partnership with Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP), and created a health science strand to existing youth academies
- NW AHEC piloted a Behavioral Health Camp and Methods in Molecular Biology Camp
- Interior AHEC coordinated Career Exploration Days at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
- Interior AHEC partnered with the UAF Alaska Summer Research Academy (ASRA)

Types of Programs HCPP Students Participated in Statewide

(N=4775)



*Outreach Programs include presentations, tours, speakers and career exploration days.

**Generally 20 hours or more.

April shared, “I was raised by the Iñupiaq, Yup’ik, and Tlingit cultural values. Being with Adam and having a life partner to share this experience with while teaching him the ways of my people is a blessing. Together we are able to learn how to give back to our communities while holding our cultural values close to our hearts.”



ILLISAGVIK COLLEGE ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAM

2011

With NW AHEC’s academic advising support, *April* and *Adam* both earned an Associate of Science in Allied Health.

One thing is clear to both Adam and April, they have AHEC to thank for the support provided along the way. “We continue to have such a great relationship with both Ilisagvik College and the AHECs all over Alaska. We can’t thank them enough for the love and support, and can only continue to be successful together by inspiring more Alaskans to do the same.”

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

2015

April and *Adam* NW AHEC’s mentorship and support helped April and Adam earn BAs in Nursing. They continued to focus on rural healthcare by completing Clinical Rotations in Barrow and Fairbanks.

CERTIFICATES FOR TRAINING

This year, 81 students earned certificates in AHEC programming in the following areas:

- Emergency Trauma Technician
- First Aid
- CPR
- Mental Health First Aid
- Certified Nurse Aid
- Medical Office Assistant

April and Adam went on to nursing school and are now residing in Anchorage where they plan to acquire the nursing experience they need to return to Barrow. They are both interested in continuing their education and studying Advanced Practice Nursing. Adam is particularly interested in psychiatric nursing.



WWAMI AHEC STUDENTS

WHERE ARE THEY TODAY?

HIGHLIGHTS

The Alaska AHEC Program Office has a close relationship with the Alaska WWAMI¹ program. Each summer, Alaska AHEC staff finds preceptors and supports WWAMI medical students participating in the Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program. WWAMI students, between their first and second year of medical school, spend four weeks with preceptors in rural communities or those who work with urban underserved populations. Some of our regional AHEC centers also support WWAMI students in additional rotations during their 3rd and 4th years of medical school in communities across Alaska.

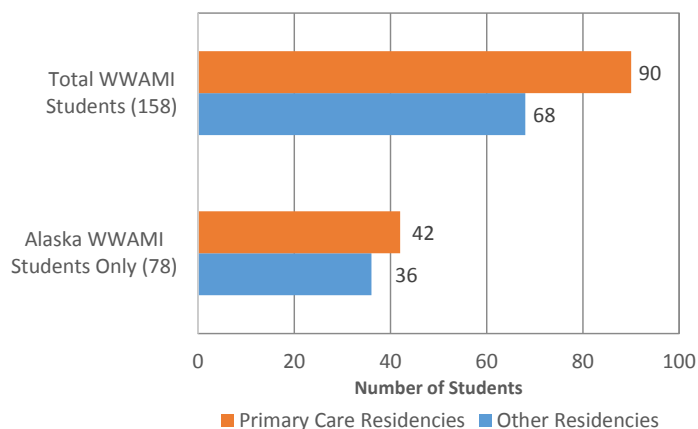
As part of Alaska AHEC's long term tracking efforts, we took a look at where the 196 WWAMI students who worked with Alaska AHECs since 2005 are now. Of these students, 158 are either currently in a residency or have completed a residency. 27% of these residents are in family medicine, which is a much higher percentage than the 8.4% of seniors who were matched to family medicine in 2015 across the nation.² If we include students who went into Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and OB/GYN as additional primary care residencies, this number jumps to 57% of the total WWAMI students (54% of the Alaska WWAMI students).

Some of the former WWAMI students/residents moved on to employment. Of the 43 physicians where employment information is available, 33% of these graduates are working in Alaska, with an additional 7% working in a rural community in another state.

¹WWAMI is a collaborative medical school among universities in five northwestern states—Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho—and the University of Washington School of Medicine.

²American Academy of Family Physicians. "2015 Match Results for Family Medicine." AAFP.org. American Academy of Family Physicians, 2015. Web. 10 Dec. 2015 (<http://www.aafp.org/medical-school-residency/program-directors/nrmp.html>).

WWAMI Residencies (Primary Care* vs Other)

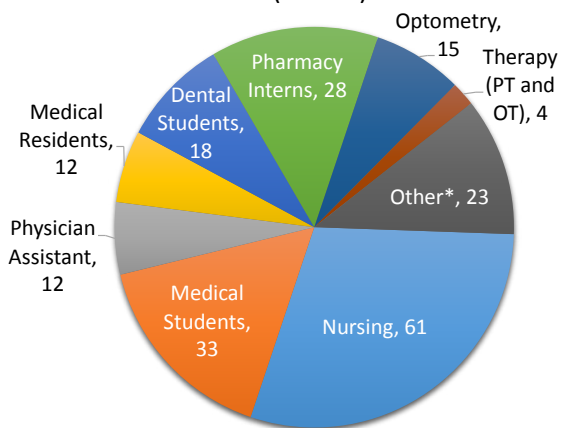


*Primary Care Residencies=Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, OB/GYN.



Margaret Jayich and Ann Jennings, Alaska R/UOP students, enjoy sampling the seafood delights of Sitka, Alaska.

Clinical Rotation Students by Health Field (N=206)



*including Allied Health and Behavioral Health

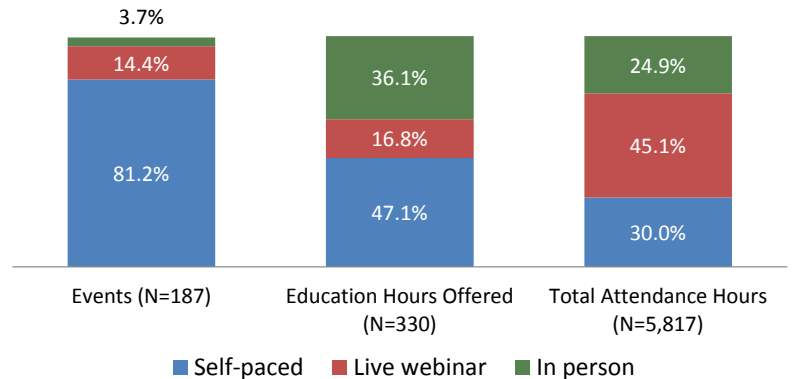
Clinical rotations are typically required clinical experiences that health professions students must complete in order to successfully finish the program. AHEC strives to facilitate rotations at rural and under-served sites in Alaska to expose students to care delivery in these settings where hard-to-fill vacancies persist.

HIGHLIGHTS

To support health professional workforce retention and growth across Alaska, the AHEC provides continuing education and professional development (CE/PD) opportunities through partnerships with other health organizations, associations, and state programs, or by developing individual events. Highlighted activities for FY 2015 include:

- Interprofessional Simulation Workshops – Training university faculty and facility educators to use simulation to enhance Interprofessional learning and curriculum development.
- Rural Veterans Health Access Webinars – Sponsored through a grant received by the Alaska DHSS and focused on suicide prevention and traumatic brain injury.
- HPV Vaccination in Alaska – First Alaska training of a multi-year National AHEC Organization (NAO) partnership with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to increase HPV vaccination rates across the nation.
- Annual Geriatric Education Series – Coordination of twenty 1.5 hour weekly webinars broadcast from the University of Washington to over 30 host sites across Alaska.
- Lactation Educator Course – 3 day training in Barrow to advocate the benefits of breastfeeding.

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



"Thank you for all the excellent information provided. This will help considerably in my role as family practice RN." -CE student

"Excellent, excellent workshop. Everyone did a great job--all done professionally and competently." -CE student

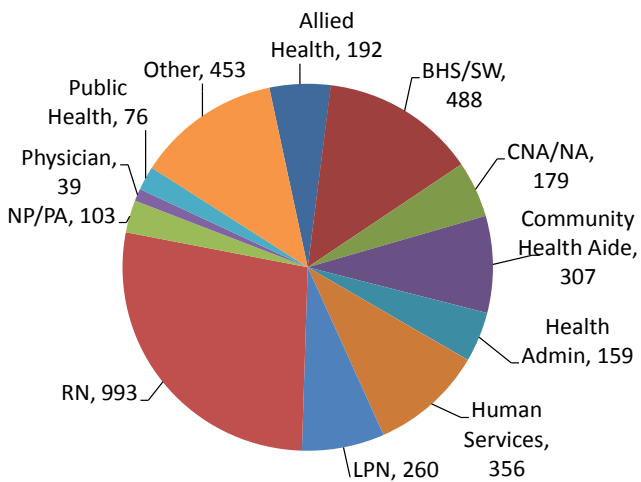
The Alaska CACHE is a web-based system that increases access to CE/PD for health professionals by creating a single-access



point that can be utilized by all CE Providers and employers. The system allows users to: search for current events by profession, topic, or host; manage and track completed CE/CME; receive new training notifications; post upcoming events; track attendance and registration; and download reports.

Visit AK CACHE online! www.akcache.org

Total CE/PD Participation by Profession (N=3605)



Note: Includes 920 individual participants, many of whom attended more than one training.



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