

Alaska AHEC Program 2017 Annual Report



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

 **AlaskaAHEC**
Area Health Education Centers

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, Associate Dean, Regional Affairs and Rural Health, UW School of Medicine

Sheila Box, State CTE Administrator, AK Career and Technical Education, Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

Northwest AHEC

Hosted at Ilisagvik College
Lauren Kelly, Director
lauren.kelly@ilisagvik.edu

Interior AHEC

Hosted at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Tabitha Crocker, Director
tabitha.crocker@foundationhealth.org

Yukon Kuskokwim AHEC

Hosted at YKHC
Greggory Navitsky, Director
Greggory_Navitsky@ykhc.org

Southwest AHEC

Hosted at BBAHC
Kyle Belleque, Director
kbelleque@bbahc.org

South Central AHEC

Hosted by APCA at Providence Health and Services Alaska
Mariko Selle, Director
mariko.selle@providence.org

Southeast AHEC

Moved to SERRC in Sept. 2017
Carlen Williams, Former Director
Joan Pardes, Director
joanp@serrc.org

Rahnia Boyer, Vice President, Village Health, Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

Merry Carlson, Deputy Director, Alaska Division of Public Health

Terri Doughfman-Billings, Assistant Director of Nursing, Maniilaq Health Center

Barbara Doty, MD, Assistant Dean, Alaska WWAMI Regional Affairs, UW School of Medicine

Paula Easley, Trustee, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Kathy Craft, Interim Associate Dean of Planning, Development and Partnerships, UAA

Nat Hall, Chief Human Resources Officer, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

Nancy Merriman, Executive Director, Alaska Primary Care Association

Jeannie Monk, Senior Program Officer, Alaska State Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association

Marianne Murray, DNP, MSN, RN, CHSE, Director, School of Nursing, UAA

Annette Rearden, Director, RRANN, UAA

Amanda Sialofi, Dean of Students, Ilisagvik College

Fred Villa, Associate Vice President, UA Workforce Programs, UA

Sheryl Weinberg, Executive Director, SERRC

Nicole Welch, Chief Human Resources Officer, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital

Liz Woodyard, Chief Executive Officer, Petersburg Medical Center





Tabitha Crocker, BA, MBA

Tabitha Crocker is the new Director of Interior AHEC. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Spanish as well as a Masters of Business from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her work experience includes six years as a Coordinator with Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and the Interior AHEC, as well as several years at the University of Alaska Systemwide office. She and her husband have two young children and she has been an active volunteer with the Make-A-Wish Foundation for over 10 years.



Lauren Kelly, MA, LMFT

Lauren Kelly is the new Director of Northwest AHEC. Lauren has lived and worked on the North Slope since early 2013 and since mid-2015 has been at Iḷisaḡvik College, Alaska's only Tribal College. Prior to taking the position at Iḷisaḡvik, Lauren worked almost exclusively as a clinician/psychotherapist. Since 2013 Lauren has worked with Alaska Natives, primarily the Iñupiaq People of the North Slope Borough, as both a marriage and family therapist and now as the Director of NW AHEC.

AHEC Mission and 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 or underserved setting, and to provide Continuing Education/Professional Development (CE/PD) to current health professionals.

Letter from the Director

Much of 2017 has kept the Alaska AHEC busy with grant-writing for continuation of federal funding through the Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA). The AHEC program underwent a restructuring process which will result in the development of a brand new AHEC Scholars Program.

Strategic partnerships are now more important than ever. Our program has expanded its reach with our newest center, the SW AHEC, hosted by Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation in Dillingham. We also underwent a transition for our SE AHEC, now hosted by SERRC in Juneau. This year, 12 AHEC staff or

affiliates became certified Mental Health First Aid instructors. Healthcare pre-apprenticeship has become a staple of AHEC activities and healthcare continues to be Alaska's fastest growing industry. The Alaska AHEC is dedicated to supporting healthcare workforce development in our most rural and underserved communities. Thank you to all of our staff, partners and participants for an exciting and inspirational year!



Gloria Burnett, MS
907-786-6705
gburnett3@alaska.edu

Health Careers Promotion and Preparation (HCPP)

PATH (Preparing Alaskans for Training in Healthcare) Pre-Apprenticeship Academies were a key activity for the South Central Alaska AHEC office in 2017. Funded by the Department of Labor, the PATH Academy is a week-long training that introduces adults to the healthcare workforce by exploring potential career pathways. Students learn professionalism, interviewing skills, and effective networking strategies, as well as health-related topics such as basic anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, cultural sensitivity, and nutrition. Mental Health First Aid and Bloodborne Pathogens training give students resume-building certifications and competence as they pursue further training or apply for entry-level jobs in healthcare.

Over 250 students completed the healthcare pre-apprenticeship program earning more than 750 certificates. Witnessing the genuine excitement PATH participants have for healthcare careers as a means to creating a better future not only for themselves, but also for Alaska's communities has been an honor and a privilege for the AHEC staff.

Certificates for Training

- 14 First Aid
- 15 Dental Health Aide Therapist
- 18 Suicide Prevention
- 27 CNA
- 45 Emergency Trauma Technician
- 62 CPR
- 161 Mental Health First Aid
- 218 Blood-borne Pathogens
- **560 Total**

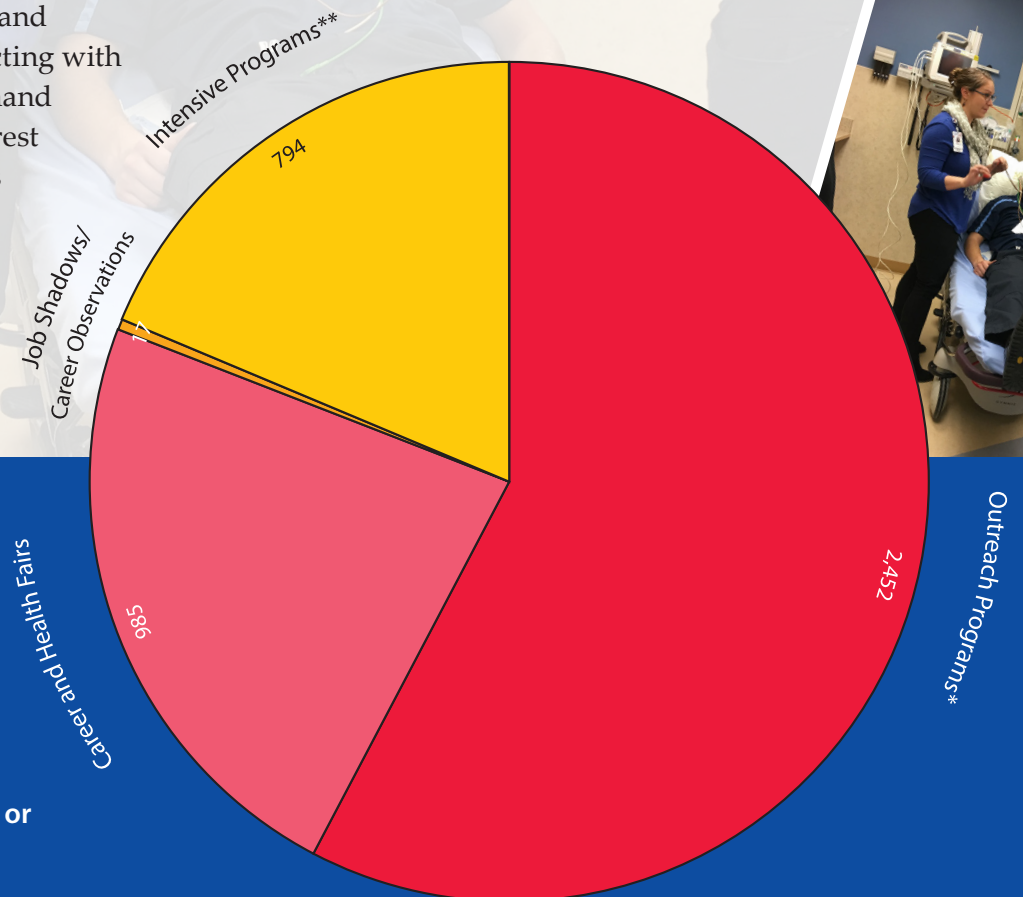
Comments from students

Actually being here and experiencing/connecting with the population firsthand helped me gain interest in working with this patient base.

—John, R/UOP,
Interior Community
Health Center

*Includes presentations, tours, career exploration, mini camps, pre-med, interprofessional education

**Generally 20 hours or more



This rotation increased my interest in practicing with in a medically underserved population. Gaining experience working with a medically-underserved patient population helped me see that they really need more physicians to come back and serve them.

—R/UOP Student, Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center

I feel like this activity was very useful to me. I very much enjoyed learning about all the jobs it takes to help people. I became more interested in the medical field and aspire to work there sometime in my life.

—Chalayna, 11th Grade Career Exploration Day Attendee

It is because of the certifications I received in your program that I got two job interviews. I cannot thank you enough for the training and the camaraderie I enjoyed in your classes and the wide range of knowledge that I gained in it.

—Richard, PATH graduate

Working in a rural healthcare setting is definitely a unique experience.

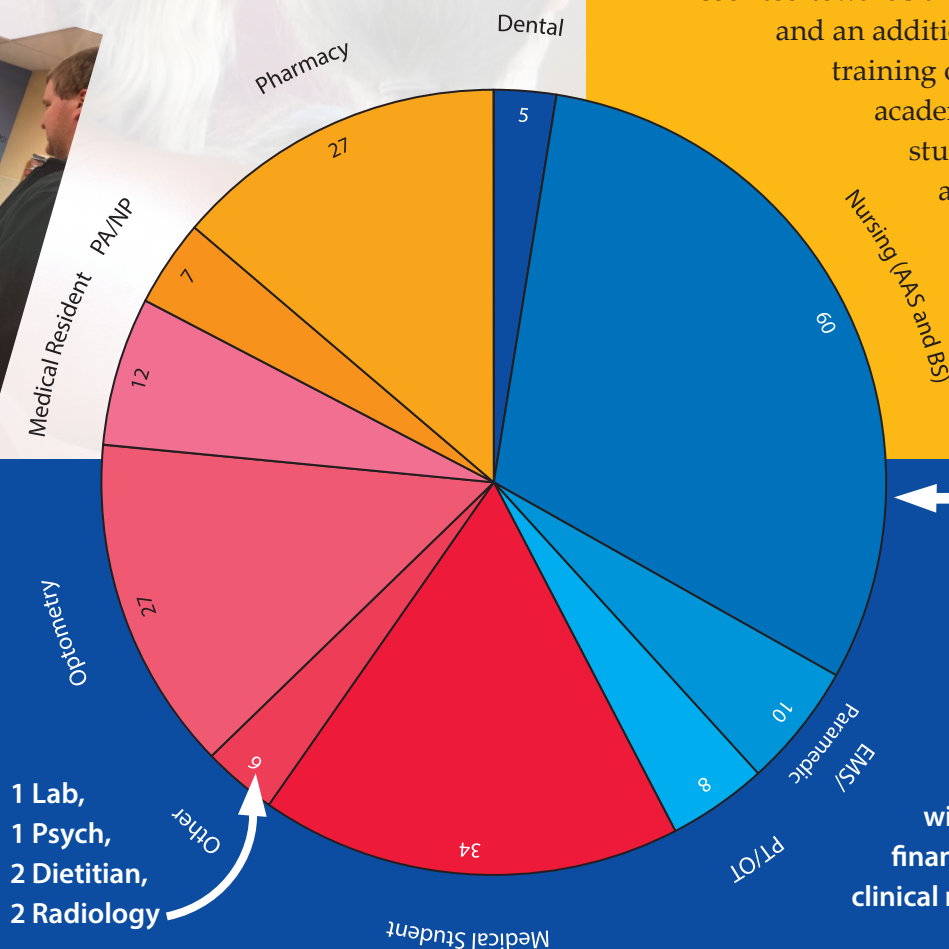
—Jennifer, Gustavus Adolphus BSN

AHEC Scholars

Beginning in summer 2018 AHEC will launch a major program aimed at individuals currently studying healthcare. The AHEC Scholars program addresses all the core goals of AHEC's mission, including expanding the healthcare workforce, improving care in rural and underserved areas and enhancing the skills of future professionals through interdisciplinary training.

Each year students will complete 40 hours of community-based fieldwork, which may be counted towards their degree requirements, and an additional 40 hours of didactic training outside their normal academic program. By sending students to communities across the state, we will introduce them to the places that need them most and prepare them for the real world.

Clinical rotations are typically required clinical experiences that students must complete as part of their academic program. In 2017 AHEC assisted 196 students with finding placements or financial assistance for their clinical rotations.



Janice Troyer is retiring!



After 17 years at UAA, Janice Troyer will be retiring in December 2017. Janice's tenure spans the AHEC's time as a center within the WWAMI AHEC family through the transition to a dedicated AHEC statewide program.

Over the years Janice has had a major impact on Alaskan healthcare. Her leadership and vision for Alaska's data management and analysis system resulted in a robust inter-state collaborative database—the Pipeline Cache—which serves AHECs in Alaska, Connecticut, and Utah. She has assisted the centers in developing and maintaining relationships with clinical sites and preceptors, assuring placement opportunities for AHEC students completing rotations. She has coordinated monthly clinical rotation calls and developed a system for the state to review clinical rotation support requests. She has worked closely with the WWAMI Medical School to support their

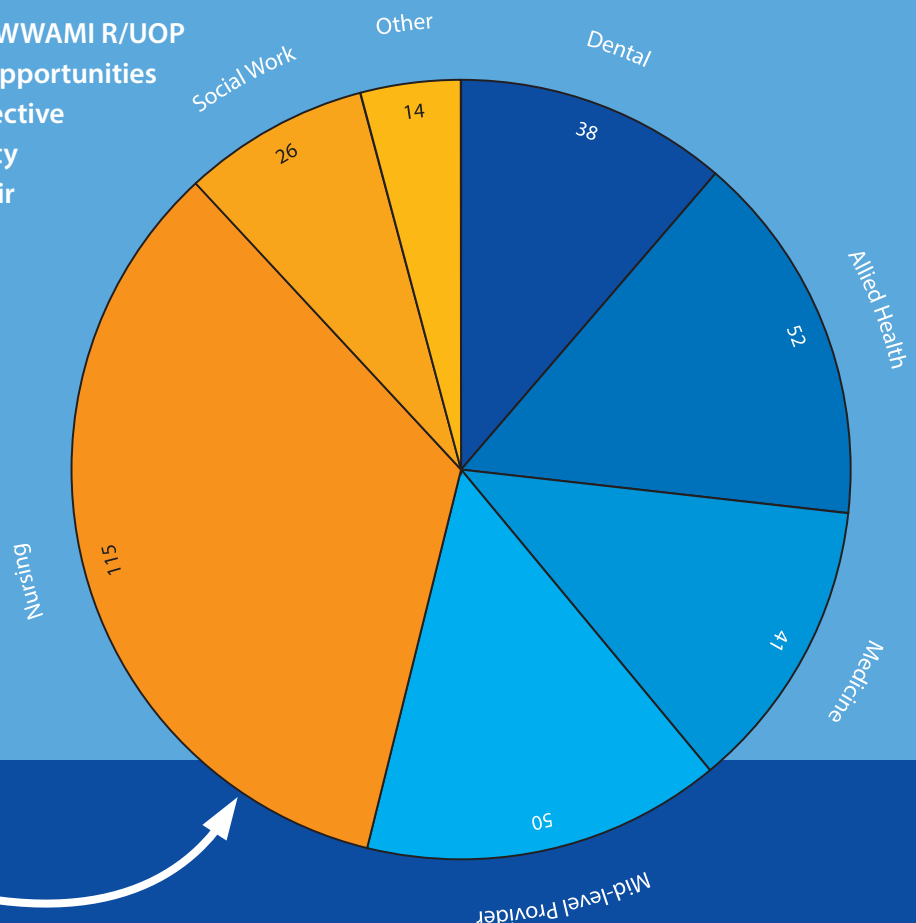
Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program. She has always been willing to put in the extra time necessary to benefit AHEC students and the program as a whole.

Janice is a classic example of an Alaskan outdoor enthusiast. An avid hiker, birder, and cross-country skier, she is looking forward to many more adventures away from the office!

Long-Term Tracking: A Look Back at Janice's Work

Janice has worked closely with the WWAMI R/UOP program. The Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program (R/UOP) is a four-week, elective immersion experience in community medicine for students between their first and second years of medical school. Since 2000, Janice has placed 188 R/UOP students in Alaska. Of those 98 students who have finished residency:

- 35% are working in Alaska
- 8% are working in a rural community of AK (outside ANC and FBX)
- 59% are working in primary care
- 4% have become preceptors for other students



Additional 336 non-R/UOP placements since 2006

Alaska's AHEC provided numerous events during the year:

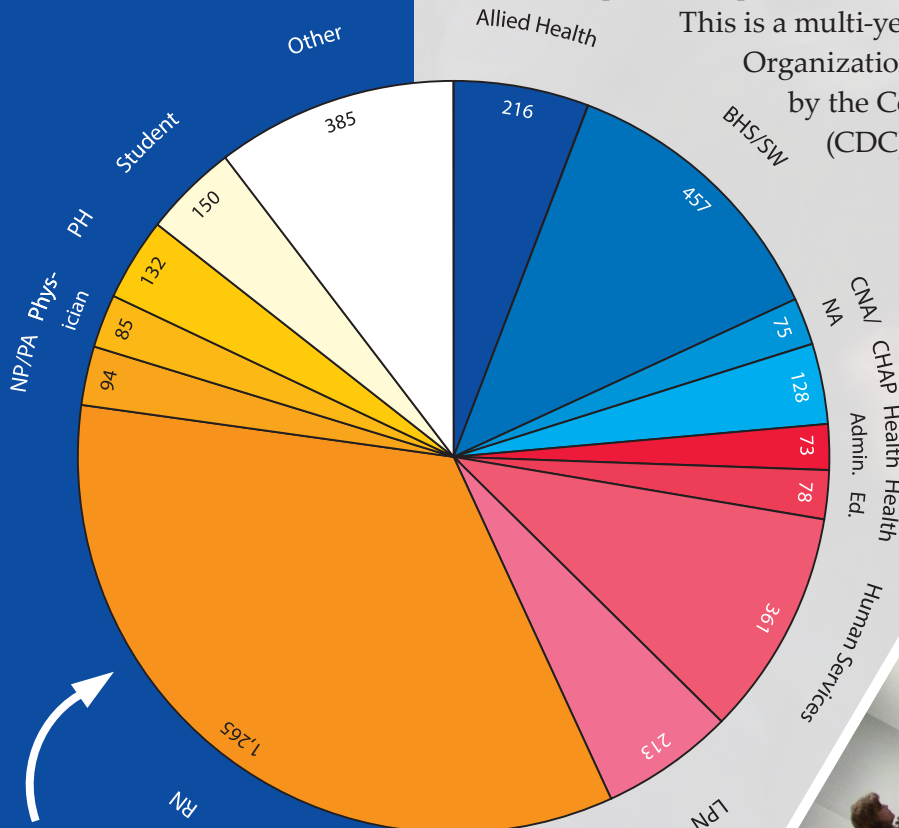
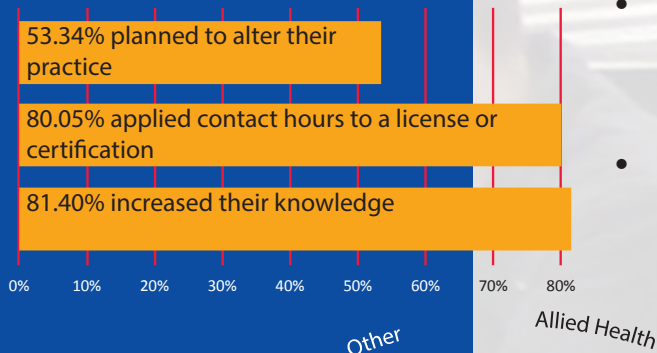
- 108 total events (58 self-paced, 32 live webinars and 18 in person)
- 160 total education hours (60 self-paced, 42 live webinars and 58 in person)
- 3,712 participants attended (1,570 self-paced, 1,197 live webinars and 945 in person)
- 11,778 total contact hours (1,577 self-paced, 2,600 live webinars and 7,601 in person)

Of 1,253 participants who completed evaluations:

53.34% planned to alter their practice

80.05% applied contact hours to a license or certification

81.40% increased their knowledge



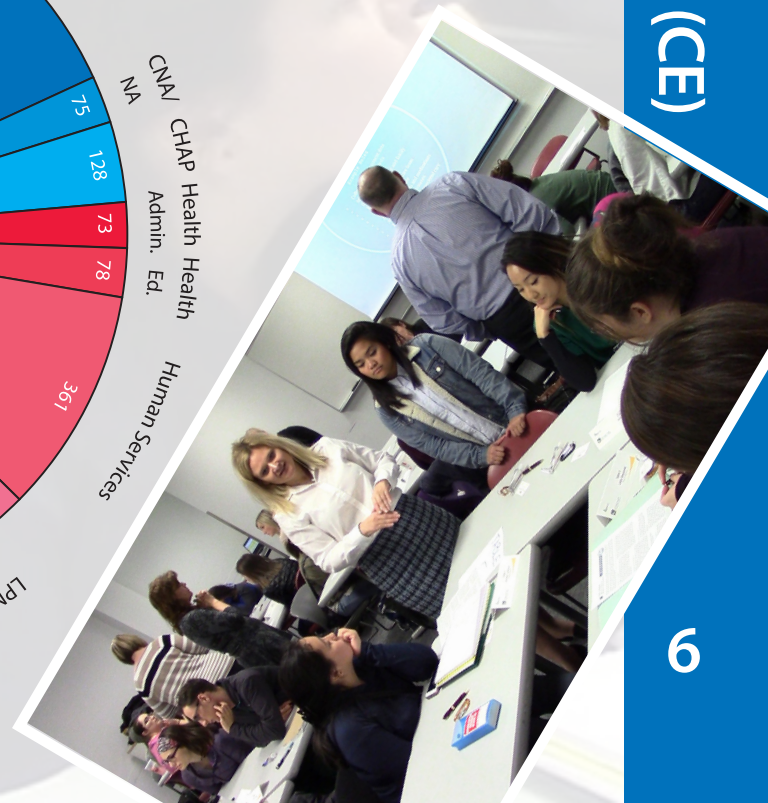
3,712 total participants, including 1,858 unique individuals

Continuing Education

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 2017 include:

- Jointly providing workshops or Continuing Education credits: Longitudinal Progression of Complex Trauma and Addiction; Hale Borealis Forum—Sustaining the Healthy North.
- Rural Veterans Health Access Webinars: Focused on Traumatic Brain Injury and Suicide Prevention, sponsored by the Alaska DHSS.
- Annual Geriatric Education Series: Annual coordination of twenty 1.5 hour weekly webinars broadcast from the University of Washington to host sites across Alaska.
- Improving HPV Vaccination rates in Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington: Training providers across the Northwest region in partnership with the American Cancer Society.

This is a multi-year National AHEC Organization (NAO) project funded by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).



Alaska Center for Rural Health and Health Workforce
University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Dr., BOC3-250
Anchorage, AK 99508

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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 healthcare providers.

Health Careers in Alaska: bit.ly/healthcareersak

This website provides information on scholarships, camps, internships and academic programs related to healthcare in Alaska. There are also detailed descriptions of over 50 healthcare careers and links to major employers and job-search services.

Phone: 907-786-6583

Fax: 907-786-6573

Email: uaa_akhealtheductr@alaska.edu

AHEC Website: bit.ly/AKAHEC



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