



## **Testimony**

### **Joint Legislative Public Hearing 2012-2013 Budget Health/Medicaid**

**February 8, 2012**

**Kathleen Callan, MSW  
Assistant Director  
NYS Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System**

*Leadership for the New York State AHEC System is provided by community-based centers, the Statewide Office at the University at Buffalo and regional offices at Upstate Medical University, Albany Medical College and The Institute for Family Health.*

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My name is Kathleen Callan. I am the Assistant Director for the New York State Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System. I am here on behalf of the 9 centers, 3 regional offices that along with the Statewide Office make up the New York State AHEC System.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony about the State of New York's longstanding partnership with our organization. **We respectfully request level funding of \$2.2 million as proposed in the 2012-13 Executive Budget in order to sustain a successful statewide, community-based AHEC infrastructure to support health workforce priorities.**

Your \$2.2 million investment in the New York State AHEC System will grow to an estimated \$7.2 million workforce development initiative through leveraged federal, local, community and private foundation funding. Federal funds are only available to AHEC if they are matched by state and community funds.

The status of the health care system is something we hear about every day. Although there are many opinions about how to make the system work better for patients and payers, everyone agrees that more primary care providers are needed to meet current and future needs. The New York State Department of Labor forecasts that health care sector jobs will grow at rates more than five times faster than any other field. We're here to help.

AHEC strategies increase the number of students from urban and rural underserved areas and from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds who become doctors, nurses and other health professionals. Research shows that these students are more likely to choose primary care and practice in their community of origin or similar communities. We work with more than 1,000 statewide, regional and local partners such as academic institutions, elementary/secondary schools, hospitals, clinics, community organizations, government agencies, Workforce Investment Boards and businesses – making all of New York State a campus.

### **Results**

Between 2009 and 2011, AHEC programs reached almost 41,000 Kindergarten to College students with information about health careers. Programs included: Medical Academy of Science & Health (MASH) Camps for middle and high school students; Summer Health Internships a 6-12 week mentoring/job shadowing program for high school and college students; and the MyHealthCareer® website that offers career information and exploration.

Because of our academic partnerships, we measure and publish our results:

- Students significantly improve knowledge of health careers and indicate greater interest in them after participating in AHEC programs.
- Students indicate their AHEC program participation influenced their decision to pursue a health career.
- AHEC program participants' college enrollment exceeds national and state rates.
- Nearly all AHEC program participants in college are attending New York State academic institutions.

The next phase of our work involves placing health professions students of all disciplines in clinical and community rotations in underserved settings. Annually on average 1,900 medical, nursing and other health professions students receive over 250,000 hours of community-based training at AHEC-sponsored sites. Under supervision, these students provide care to more than 95,000 patients.

Outcomes of a New York State AHEC System federal contract providing 120-hour clinical rotations in underserved areas showed that post rotation, 85% of students report considering work in an underserved area. They also increased their cultural competency skills during the rotation as measured by nine skills/characteristics.

We also provide continuing education to an average of more than 15,000 practicing health professionals/faculty annually. Topics include: health information technology, electronic medical records, chronic disease, cultural competence/diversity, interdisciplinary/interprofessional skills and health disparities.

### **Sustainability**

The New York State AHEC System has successfully obtained additional federal funding including: ARRA Stimulus funds to purchase equipment used in continuing education training; Health Resources and Services Administration funds for the Health Careers Opportunity Program and to establish a Collegiate Health Service Corps; FCC funding to build out broadband capabilities of 40 small rural hospitals and connect them with health care systems in Buffalo and Rochester; and USDA awards for Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine.

We also manage other state funds including New York State Department of Health projects to improve the dental health workforce; better the outcomes of HIV patients, and train health workers. Several New York State AHEC System entities also recently concluded work under the New York State Department of Labor's Emerging and Transitional Worker program.


### **Meeting Community Needs**

AHECs adapt to meet community needs. We're in the North Country as active partners in the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization; we're in Ulster County helping rural communities recruit health professionals; we're in New York City coordinating medical students staffing free clinics and we're in Buffalo running an in-depth Summer Program for students interested in health care.

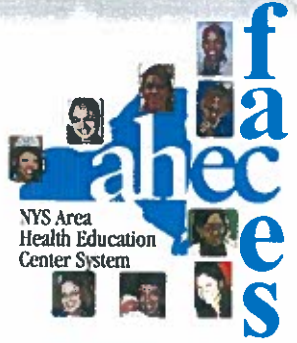
The New York State AHEC System's multifaceted recruitment, training and retention strategies are solutions to current and future health workforce shortages. They increase diversity and distribute health care professionals where they are needed most. Our programs result in the sons and daughters of New Yorkers becoming health professionals who work to improve health care access and economic development in underserved communities.

The New York State AHEC System has demonstrated success in developing the state's health workforce. We respectfully request level funding of \$2.2 million to sustain a successful statewide, community-based AHEC infrastructure to support health workforce priorities.

Thank you for this opportunity and your continuing support.




**Faces of AHEC**  
 Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health



NYS Area Health Education Center System

**Where are they now?**


**How did AHEC help them get there?**




**Faces of AHEC**

Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HM AHEC)  
 Program: Worked with AHEC members at Hudson Headwaters Health Network  
 Currently: Rural Medical Education Program at Upstate Medical University  
 Career Pursuit: Physician

***"My experiences with the family medicine department here and the rural medicine program have only solidified my desire to serve as a physician in a rural area."***




John Quaresima




**Faces of AHEC**

Northern AHEC (NAHEC)  
 Program: High School internship placement at pharmacy, Potsdam, NY  
 Currently in: College at UMass Amherst  
 Career pursuit: Studying Psychology

***"My experience at Kinney Drugs was indispensable and one of the most valuable learning experiences that I have had."***




London Woodfolk




**Faces of AHEC**

Brooklyn Queens Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC)  
 Program: SHIP (2010)  
 Currently: at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, PA program  
 Career Pursuit: Physician Assistant

***"Through participating in BQLI AHEC, I have learned the ethical principles, laws, and guidelines related to providing safe and quality care to patients. The program helped me to be more knowledgeable of the patients' rights particularly confidentiality and cultural, religious, and spiritual issues."***




April Joy Rivers




## Faces of AHEC

Erie Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC)  
**Program:** Summer Scholars  
**Currently:** SUNY Buffalo Exercise Science undergraduate program  
**Career Pursuit:** Doctorate in Physical Therapy  
*"AHEC has affected my educational and career pursuits by making sure that I was on the right track to getting where I needed/wanted to be. They helped me with letters of recommendations, searching for universities that provided the majors that would lead me into my career, and networking."*




*Darlene Volmy*




## Faces of AHEC

Brooklyn Queens Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC)  
**Program:** SHIP (2005)  
**Currently:** 5th Year at Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education  
 7yr BS/MD program (2nd year medical student)  
 Two Time 1st place fitness champion for city college of New York  
 Certified ISSA Personal Trainer




*Karif J. Patterson*



## Faces of AHEC

Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC)  
**Program:** SEARCH  
**Currently:** 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student NYCOM  
**Career Pursuit:** Physician  
*"I researched about how LGBTQ community is treated within the medical field. I had the opportunity to interview LGBTQ members about their experiences. I realized that several doctors are uncomfortable asking about sexuality identifications, which really alienates patients. I learned the importance of asking certain questions and creating a clinical environment that is welcoming to ALL people."*



*Priyal Patel*



## Faces of AHEC

NY Metro Region Office  
*"The first two years of medical school can leave you feeling ambivalent. . . . So much of that time is so textbook focused that I was longing for something more meaningful. Through AHEC, I worked at the Institute for Family Health doing a summer program visiting various soup kitchens, meeting homeless patients under the supervision of passionate doctors and nurse practitioners and doing research on the appropriate medical management of homeless patients with hypertension and diabetes. Today I am medical director of one of the Institute's clinics in the south Bronx. I also help direct both the ECHO Free Clinic, where I first worked as a medical student, and the NYC Free Clinic where we provide an access point to care for uninsured patients. Thank you AHEC for reminding students of the meaning behind medicine."*



*Dr. Sarah Nosal, MD  
 Medical Director  
 Urban Horizon Family Practice, South Bronx*



*With your support, we can achieve  
a healthier New York*

**Funding request for 2012-13: Maintain \$2.2 million**

**New Yorkers need jobs...health care needs workers**

From doctors and nurses to technicians and aides, our state has more good jobs than qualified workers to fill them. As more people acquire health insurance, opportunities will multiply. In fact, the New York State Department of Labor expects health care to grow more than five times faster than any other field.

**Our shared vision**

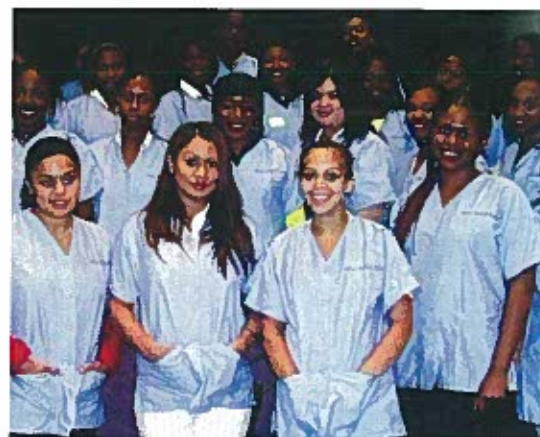
Imagine a healthier New York State. Everyone has access to quality care. Our workforce is diverse – health providers look like the people they care for, and understand different cultures’ needs. Most important, we have enough qualified, dedicated practitioners to serve all of our citizens, wherever they live and whatever their means. This is the vision the New York State AHEC System is working to achieve.

**About AHEC**

We are New York’s recognized leader in health care workforce development. Our nine local offices across the state work strategically and invest carefully to ensure that each community gets the help it needs.

**What we do**

- Lead students of all ages to rewarding careers in all aspects of health care.
- Recruit young people – especially from underserved and minority communities, both urban and rural – to health careers and training.
- Partner with schools, colleges and universities for clinical training.
- Place students and interns in underserved communities, where they’ll return to work when their training is complete.
- Recruit practitioners to work in communities that need them.
- Increase workers’ skills with continuing education.
- Retrain older or displaced workers for success in new careers.



**Why your support is so crucial**

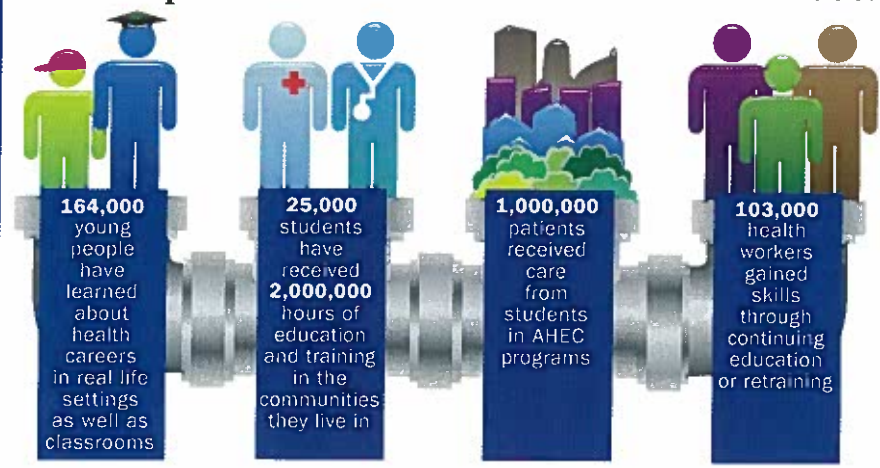
The New York State AHEC System could not accomplish any of this without assistance from New York State.

- State funding enables us to leverage millions more in local, community and foundation grants.
- Even more important, state support qualifies the New York State AHEC System for federal funding.

**Your \$2.2 million investment will grow to \$7.2 million for a healthier New York.**

**SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS**

Here’s a quick look at AHEC achievements since 2000.



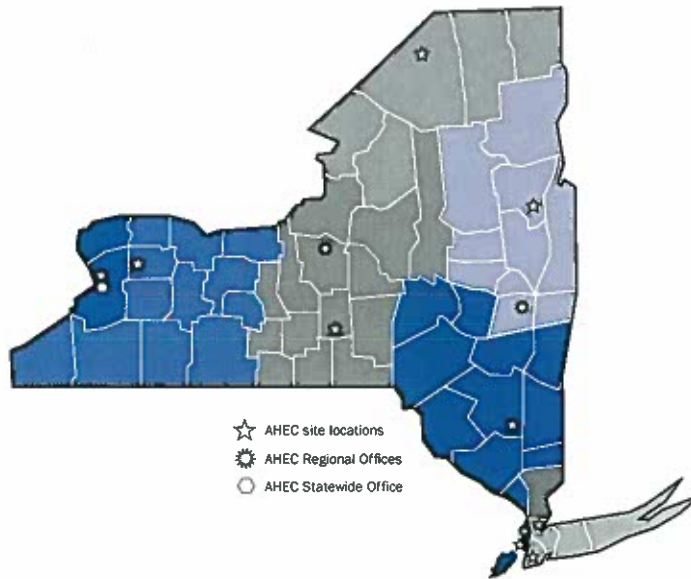
Note: These are round numbers. Please call the Statewide Office for detailed statistics.



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

**New York State AHEC System  
Statewide Office**

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77 Goodell St, Suite 220, Buffalo, NY 14203  
(716) 816-7225 fax (716) 845-6899  
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**STATEWIDE OFFICE**



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 77 Goodell St, Suite 220  
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**REGIONAL OFFICES**

**Western Region Office**  
 Department of Family Medicine  
 77 Goodell St, Suite 220  
 Buffalo, NY 14203  
 (716) 816-7225 fax (716) 845-6899  
 www.buffalo.edu

**Central Region Office**  
 Department of Family Medicine  
 SUNY Upstate Medical University  
 475 Irving Ave, Suite 200  
 Syracuse, NY 13210  
 (315) 464-7010  
 www.upstate.edu/fmed/ahec.php

**Eastern Region Office**  
 Albany Medical College  
 Department of Medical Education  
 47 New Scotland Ave, MC 34  
 Albany, NY 12208  
 (518) 262-2646 fax (518) 262-7261  
 www.amc.edu/Academic/AboutCollege/

**New York Metropolitan Region Office**  
 The Institute for Family Health  
 16 E. 16th St  
 New York, NY 10003  
 (212) 633-0800  
 www.institute2000.org

**CENTER LOCATIONS**



**Western New York Rural AHEC**  
 20 Duncan St, PO Box 152  
 Warsaw, NY 14569  
 (585) 786-6275 fax (585) 786-6280  
 www.r-ahec.org



**Northern AHEC**  
 105 Main St  
 Canton, NY 13617  
 (315) 379-7701 fax (315) 379-7707  
 www.myhealthcareer.org



**Hudson Mohawk AHEC**  
 9 Carey Rd  
 Queensbury, NY 12804  
 (518) 480-2432 fax (518) 793-5356  
 www.gohealthcareer.org



**Bronx-Westchester AHEC**  
 Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk Blvd West  
 Carman Hall 241  
 Bronx, NY 10468  
 (718) 590-1110  
 www.bwahec.org



**Central New York AHEC**  
 10 Kennedy Pkwy  
 Cortland, NY 13045  
 (607) 756-1090 fax (607) 756-1092  
 www.cnyahec.org



**Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC**  
 408 Jay St, Ste 400  
 Brooklyn, NY 11201  
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 www.enahec.org



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