



Kentucky AHEC Program

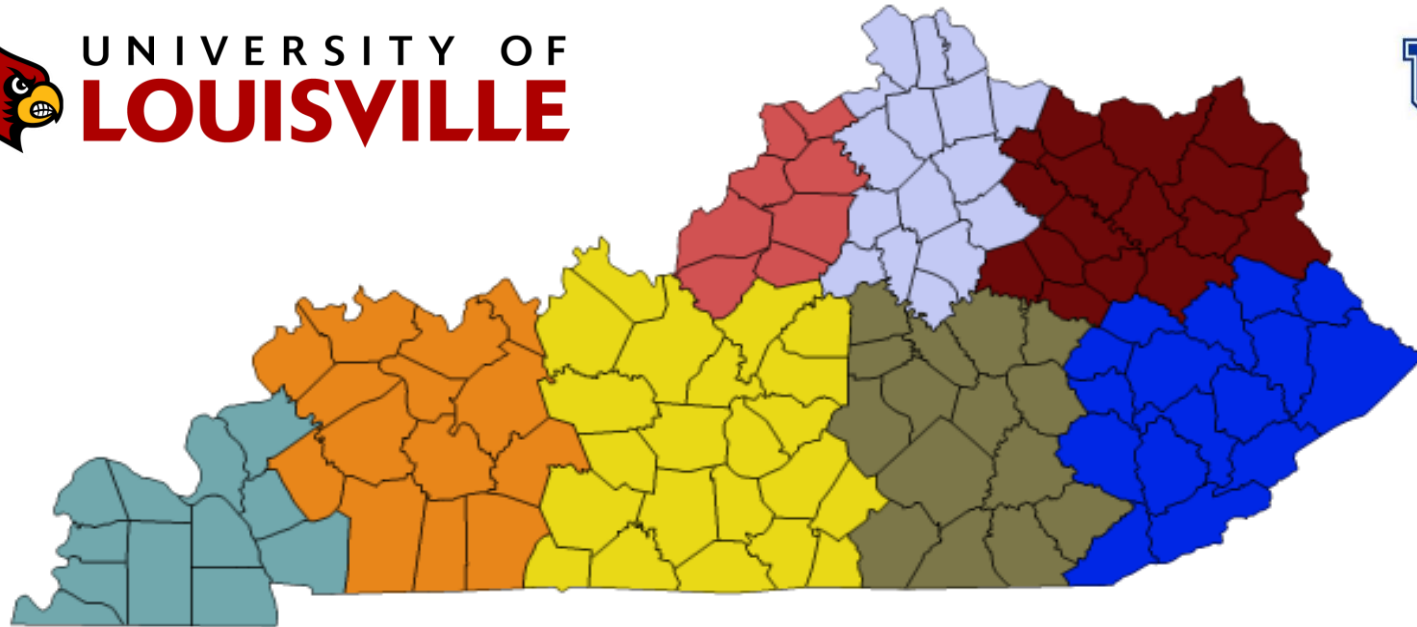
Area Health Education Centers

What is an AHEC?

- ◆ Created by Congress in 1971 to enhance access to quality health care
 - ◆ Kentucky AHEC began in early 1980s (hosted centers)
- ◆ Four primary strategies:
 - ◆ Health careers promotion, facilitate clinical rotations, continuing education, community health initiatives

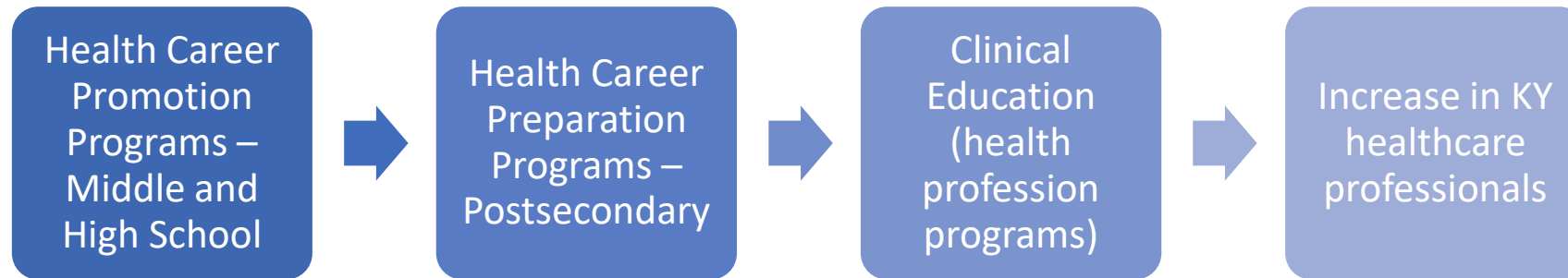


An existing statewide network



- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Purchase AHEC | South Central AHEC | North Central AHEC | Northeast AHEC |
| West AHEC | Northwest AHEC | Southern AHEC | Southeast AHEC |

A Pipeline of Success – Health Careers



Middle/High School Program Examples

- School-based Programs
 - AHEC staff present about health careers in the classroom and do hands-on activities.
- After-school Programs
 - Programs designed for students interested in healthcare to fuel their interest. Hands-on activities, guest speakers, and demonstrations
- Summer Camps
 - Intensive programming filled with hands-on activities, demonstrations, shadowing, and guest speakers from the medical community.



Postsecondary Program Examples

- Clinical Job Shadowing
- Medical School Prep Program
 - MCAT prep materials, mock interviews, personal statement reviews, shadowing
- Paid Summer Internship Programs
 - Paid internships and programs immersing students in rural health
- Nurse Aide Training (i.e. CNA)
 - Trains college students to begin working as nurse aide while completing their studies
- Mentorship Programs
 - Connecting undergrad students with health professional students



Clinical Education Coordination

- Once in a health profession program, students must complete a clinical rotation in an AHEC region (rural or medically underserved).



Students Reached – A drop due to significant funding cuts

FY16: Pipeline programs,
grades 9-16 (participants
from rural backgrounds)

16,111

FY21: Pipeline programs,
grades 9-16 (participants
from rural backgrounds)

1,721

AHEC Works – Success Stories

Northeast KY AHEC:

Physician Name: Dr. Erin Waddell

Profession: Pediatrician in Elliot County, KY

AHEC Pipeline:

- High School:
 - AHEC Summer Enrichment Program (4 wk summer camp)
 - Rural Health Scholars (after school program)
- College:
 - Summer Health Internship Program (2013)
 - MCAT Prep Program
- Medical School:
 - Attended UK's Rural Physician Leadership Program in Morehead, KY
- Post-residency:
 - Is a practicing pediatrician in Morehead, KY.

Purchase KY AHEC:

Physician Name: Dr. Joshua Scearce

Profession: Physician

AHEC Pipeline:

- College:
 - Rural Community Health Scholars – paid, summer internship program (2010)
 - MCAT Prep Program
- Medical School:
 - Attended University of Louisville
- Residency:
 - Attended Baptist Health Family Medicine Residency in Madisonville, KY
- Post-residency:
 - Is a practicing emergency medicine physician in Murray, KY.

AHEC Works – Success Stories

Southeast KY AHEC:

Student: Madison Eddington

Future Career: Registered Nurse in Hazard, KY

AHEC Pipeline:

- 2014 – Summer Scrubs Camp (middle school)
- 2015 – Summer Scrubs Camp (middle school)
- 2021 – While enrolled at Hazard Community and Technical College she was admitted to the 2-year AHEC Scholars

Northwest KY AHEC:

Student: Raven Cox

Future Career: Physician

AHEC Pipeline:

- 2019 to 2020 – Medical School Prep Program

“I was accepted to the **University of Louisville School of Medicine class of 2021!!!!**”

I will always remember how you have guided, encouraged, and gave me the resources to make this possible. That really means a lot, and I hope to be able to do the same for others in the same capacity one day. I hope you have a great weekend!” ~Raven Cox

AHEC Works – Success Stories

South Central KY AHEC:

Student: Derek Taylor

Future Career: Physician in Scottsville, KY

AHEC Pipeline:

- High School
 - Pharmacy Tech Training
- College
 - Clinical Job Shadowing
 - Student Rural Health Association
 - Nurse Aide Training
 - Summer Rural Health Scholars (rural health immersion program)
 - Medical School Prep program

“I cannot say enough good things about this program, and because of it, I hope to one day return to my hometown of Scottsville, KY, and practice medicine here.”

Southern KY AHEC:

Student: Hannah Hillard

Future Career: Rural Physician

AHEC Pipeline:

- Middle School
 - AHEC MASH Camp
- College
 - Medical School Prep Program
 - AHEC Connect - Mentor program for pre-medical students
- Medical School
 - Attending UK’s Rural Physician Leadership Program in Morehead, KY, class of 2023

AHEC Works – Success Stories

West KY AHEC:

A mother/daughter AHEC success story

Mother:

- Medical School
 - UofL Trover Campus (2002)
- Residency
 - Madisonville Family Practice Residency (2005)
- Post-residency
 - Family Medicine Physician and clinical preceptor

Daughter:

- High School
 - JR Leadership Program (2009)
 - First Step Nursing Program (2011)
- College
 - Summer health internship (2012, 2013, 2014)
 - Health Rural Scholars (2012, 2013, 2014)
 - Clinical training (2014)
- Medical School
 - UofL Trover Campus (2019)
- Future Plans
 - After finishing OB/GYN residency, she will return to the region to practice (2023)

AHEC Works Success Stories

North Central KY AHEC:

Student: Hallie M.

Future Career: Family Nurse Practitioner, KY

AHEC Pipeline:

- High School
 - Health Career Explorers
 - HC Summer Camps
- College
 - Clinical Job Shadowing
 - Nursing
 - Master of Science in Nursing



AHEC Ready to Expand Health Career Programs

- **Hiring new Health Career Programs Coordinators**
 - Health Career Coordinators serve to introduce, explore and nurture the interest of students in pursuit of a career in the health professions, with a special emphasis on nursing, medicine, and public health.
- **Implement a nursing pipeline targeting secondary and postsecondary students**
 - Recruit HS/college students and mentors;
 - Activities shall include soft skills and leadership development;
 - Mentors will work with students and oversee job shadowing, discuss job opportunities in the nursing field, and assist students with academic planning.



AHEC Ready to Expand Health Career Programs

- **Administer school-based health careers and health promotion programs targeting secondary and postsecondary schools:**
 - AHEC will increase the number of HC presentations, activities and shadowing experiences;
 - Increase numbers of students in pursuits of a health career with a special emphasis on nursing, public health, and medicine workforce concerns;
 - Expand the number of and/or train the Community Health Workers.
- **Expand HC enrichment/pathway activities to include:**
 - ACT prep, State Registered Nurse Aide program, NCLEX prep classes;
 - Retain and track all students to participate in AHEC supported health professions activities.

