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“Mid-Carolina AHEC Awarded Youth Health Service Corps Grant”

Lancaster, SC – Mid-Carolina Area Health Education Center (Mid-Carolina AHEC) has been awarded a Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) 2008 Grant by Northwestern Connecticut AHEC. Mid-Carolina AHEC will administer the grant in collaboration with the other three South Carolina AHEC regional centers: Lowcountry, Pee Dee and Upstate. The proposal was only one of four selected from 30 applicants nationwide to receive funds to implement the YHSC curriculum.

The YHSC curriculum provides step-by-step guidance that helps students see a role for themselves as leaders in their communities and as partners with others in helping improve the health of those who reside in their communities. The goals of the YHSC are consistent with those of the South Carolina AHEC’s Health Careers Academy. Both programs seek to prepare high school students for entry into careers in healthcare and connecting them to the communities in which they live.

The South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Academy is a four year program for high school students. The freshman and sophomore years of the Academy focus on health career exploration and academic skill development. The junior year will utilize the YHSC curriculum for student-led project development and health-related service learning placements. The final year of the Academy, the student’s senior year in high school, will further promote service learning while at the same time focusing on matriculation to college and/or health professions training.

The South Carolina AHEC anticipates that the students participating in the YHSC program will benefit greatly from this experience. The intensive service learning component of this program

increases the likelihood that students will complete their health professions training better equipped to help improve the health of those they serve.

Grant funding for the Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) is provided by the Northwestern Connecticut AHEC through a grant provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), Learn and Serve America (LSA).

The South Carolina AHEC exists to help improve the health of South Carolina's citizens. Established in 1972, South Carolina AHEC is the only organization in South Carolina that addresses healthcare workforce needs starting at the level of middle school education and extending to practicing healthcare professionals throughout the state. The success of the South Carolina AHEC is due to the excellent partnerships that have been built with South Carolina's colleges, universities, teaching hospitals and communities.

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