

South Carolina

AHEC Scholars

Handbook



South Carolina AHEC

The South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) is a state agency that provides education, recruitment and retention programs to improve the training, diversity and distribution of South Carolina's healthcare workforce. South Carolina AHEC began in 1972 as one of the 11 originally funded projects of the federal AHEC program. The South Carolina AHEC System is comprised of a program office located at the Medical University of South Carolina, four regional AHEC centers and family medicine residency training programs throughout the state.

South Carolina AHEC connects students and professionals with the tools, training and resources necessary to provide quality healthcare, with a focus on primary care for rural and underserved communities. We provide education, recruitment and retention programs to build and support the healthcare workforce South Carolina needs.

AHECs and the Scholars Program

The AHEC Scholars Program is a nation-wide project, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Each AHEC is creating an AHEC Scholars program for their state, along the same set of guidelines and requirements, in order to increase the diversity and distribution of the nation's healthcare workforce.

SC AHEC has received federal funds from HRSA (Grant #U77HP03019) to assist in the development and implementation of the AHEC Scholars program.

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About the SC AHEC Scholars Program

The South Carolina AHEC Scholars program is a part of a national initiative to prepare tomorrow's health professionals to become leaders in interprofessional, transformative practice who serve those who need it the most.

The program consists of didactic and experiential training opportunities with a focus on interprofessional primary care and service to rural and underserved populations. AHEC Scholars will receive preference for innovative, team-based clinical fieldwork placements, in addition to networking opportunities with leaders and primary care professionals from across the state and nation.

Areas of Focus

Core Topics

Per requirements from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), all training will be focused around the following core topics:

- **Interprofessional Education** supports a coordinated, patient-centered model of health care that involves an understanding of the contributions of multiple health care professionals.
- **Behavioral Health Integration** promotes the development of integrated primary and behavioral health services to better address the needs of individuals with mental health and substance use conditions.
- **Connecting Communities and Supporting Health Professionals** aims to increase training and development of CHWs and paraprofessionals to be the connectors who are able to serve as liaison between health professions and the community to facilitate access to service and improve health equity, community/population health, and social determinants of health.
- **Virtual Learning and Telehealth** leverages technology to extend access to education and care to individuals who may not otherwise be able to travel or reach health services and learning.
- **Social Determinants of Health** are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.
- **Cultural Competency** seeks to improve individual health and build healthy communities by training health care providers to recognize and address the unique culture, language and health literacy of diverse consumers and communities.
- **Practice Transformation** aims to fully support quality improvement and patient-centered care through goal-setting, leadership, practice facilitation, workflow changes, measuring outcomes, and adapting organizational tools and processes to support new team-based models of care delivery.

Primary Care and Serving the Underserved

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on the Future of Primary Care [defines primary care](#) as "the provision of integrated, accessible health care services by clinicians who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients, and practicing in the context of family and community."

In South Carolina, all but one county is designated as a full or partial health professions shortage area. With so many South Carolinians in need of access to health care, the need for health professionals to practice full-scope primary care in rural areas is great.

Program Benefits

- \$500/year active in the program (up to \$1,000 total)
- Network and receive mentoring opportunities with established leaders in primary care and rural health in South Carolina
- Network with other AHEC Scholars across the nation
- Receive preference for innovative team-based clinical fieldwork placements/rotations
- Increased competitiveness for SC AHEC rural incentive grants
- Certificate recognizing you as an AHEC Scholar and leader in primary care

Eligibility Requirements

Who Can Apply?

Graduate Health Profession students from the following disciplines are encouraged to apply and participate in AHEC Scholars. Preference will be given to individuals with/that meet one or more of the following:

- South Carolina resident
- Rural background
- Commitment to a rural lifestyle
- Commitment to primary care
- Underrepresented minority
- Disadvantaged background

Students are eligible to apply to the South Carolina AHEC Scholars Program if accepted/enrolled in one of the health professions degree programs listed below in South Carolina and are able to participate in and complete 2 years of the AHEC Scholars program preferably coinciding with graduation.

Applications are accepted in the Fall, Spring and Summer of each year. Preferred application times are listed for some training programs below:

- Dental Medicine – 2nd or 3rd Year
- Nurse Practitioner – 1st or 2nd Year (for programs over 2 years)
- Master of Social Work – 1st Year
- Medicine - 2nd or 3rd year
- Occupational Therapy – 1st or 2nd year (for programs over 2 years)
- Pharmacy – 3rd Year
- Physician Assistant Studies – 1st Year
- Physical Therapy – 2nd Year

Program Requirements

The AHEC Scholars program provides students with innovative, interprofessional training and mentoring focused on building the skills and competencies needed to help transform primary care and improve patient care.

To successfully complete the AHEC Scholars Program, students will:

1. Attend orientation
2. Complete baseline evaluation survey
3. Participate in the AHEC Scholars program for at least 2 years
4. Complete 40 contact hours of experiential and 40 hours of didactic activities during each of the two years of the program. Opportunities include:
 - Primary care focused interprofessional simulation activities
 - Partnering with SC primary care leaders on quality improvement initiatives
 - Fieldwork placements/rotations in team-based practice settings
 - Access to online courses focused on core topics
5. Maintain enrollment in an eligible health profession academic program and be in good academic standing
6. Complete AHEC Scholars program evaluation
7. Complete a follow-up evaluation 1 year after exiting the program

Expectations for AHEC Scholars

South Carolina AHEC expects that its AHEC Scholars will:

- Complete training in each of the core topic areas (see page 1)
- Complete evaluations to assist with quality improvement of the AHEC Scholars program
- Actively engage with your interprofessional colleagues

Data Collection

South Carolina AHEC is committed to the delivery of quality services and information to its scholars. Accordingly, all participants within the AHEC Scholars program will be asked about their involvement for quality improvement. Additionally, SC AHEC has received federal funds from HRSA (Grant #U77HP03019) to assist in the development and implementation of the AHEC Scholars program. Demographic information and assessment data will be collected and reported as requested by our funders and will not identify individuals. If you have any questions regarding the reporting of data, please contact Jennifer Bailey at baileyje@musc.edu.

Experiential & Didactic Opportunities

Didactic vs. Experiential

Didactic education consists of online learning modules and elective classes in which material is presented through lectures and readings for example. You will see and hear material in this type of learning. Didactic education must be focused on the seven core topic areas: interprofessional education, behavioral health integration, connecting communities and supporting health professionals, virtual learning and telehealth, social determinants of health, cultural competency, and practice transformation. This can include a variety of activities such as the AHEC Scholars online modules, Interprofessional Electives, lectures, seminars as well as others. Active scholars are required to complete 40 hours (contact hours not semester hours) per year in addition to required courses for the health professions degree program. Please see the following menu of activities.

Experiential training gives students the opportunity to apply/practice what has been learned in didactic settings. Experiential learning includes hands-on activities in a clinical or community-based setting, as well as simulations and active engagement in virtual programs. For the AHEC Scholars program experiential learning should be focused on rural or underserved populations in a team-based setting.

Academic Credit to AHEC Scholars Contact Hours Conversion

1 academic credit hour = 15 AHEC Scholars contact hours
2 academic credit hours = 30 AHEC Scholars contact hours

Overview of Opportunities

The following is a listing of possible activities to meet the criteria identified by the AHEC Scholars program. Each month, a newsletter is sent to AHEC Scholars to highlight additional opportunities.

AHEC Scholars Online Modules	The SC AHEC Learning Portal has over 80 contact hours of online modules addressing each of the core topic areas. Scholars will have some required modules and many choices for other core topic content that are self-paced and online. Please see the module details for the number of experiential and didactic credits available. Access information will be provided after acceptance to the AHEC Scholars Program.
Experiential Activities	
Simulation Activities	Students have the opportunity to participate in IP Primary Care focused simulation activities.
Interprofessional Electives/Activities	Varies by institution – Scholars credit is available for elective courses that are not part of your required academic program curriculum
Non-Credit Experiential IP Activities	Varies by institution. Please check with your HPS/AHEC Scholars Coordinator/s.

Volunteer at Health Clinics or Health Screenings	Examples include: Charleston area Students: MUSC CARES Medical Clinic, Shifa Clinic, One80 Place, ECCO Clinic, St. Andrews, Dream Center Clinic, Fetter Clinics Columbia Area: Healthy Columbia, The Free Medical Clinic, FoodShare
Institute for Primary Care Seminars	The SC AHEC Institute for Primary Care Seminars are held monthly between September and April each year. (1 didactic and .5 experiential hours per live session attended)
Interprofessional Team Case Conference (ITCC)	During the virtual case conference, students from across the state bring the knowledge of their respective fields to the table to develop an interprofessional care plan and to discuss patient/person-and family-centered care, identification of social determinants impacting a patient's health, identification of needed clinical services and community resources, care coordination, and population health implications. (3 experiential credit hours)
High-Fidelity Simulation	During the interprofessional simulation, students will participate in three team-based rural primary care scenarios at a regional simulation lab.


Rotations, Fieldwork and Clinical Experiences

Clinical/Fieldwork Placements/Rotations/Externships that are part of your academic program, can be counted towards the 40 experiential hours for the Scholars program if the experience is in 1) a team-based learning environment and 2) serves rural and/or underserved populations.

How Can I Count Experiences and Activities Not Listed Here?

Log in to your account on the AHEC Learning Portal (<http://www.scahec.net/Learn>) and submit additional experiences from your AHEC Scholars page. Your AHEC Scholars Advisor will review and approve other activities you submit to count toward your AHEC Scholar hours and determine the number of eligible didactic and experiential contact hours.

AHEC Scholars Online Module Descriptions

There are more than 80 contact hours of educational material to choose from on our online learning system: AHEC Learning Portal (ALP). Some modules are required for all AHEC Scholars and the rest are available to complete for credit toward your annual 40 didactic and 40 experiential contact hours. Modules with a  icon are part of the Health Humanities series.

Name and Description	Didactic Hours	Experiential Hours
AHEC Scholars Introduction (Required)	2	0
Introduction to SC AHEC Core Topics (Required) This course provides an introduction and orientation to the eight SC AHEC Core Topics, which are: Interprofessional Education, Behavioral Health Integration, Connecting Communities and Supporting Health Professionals, Virtual Learning and Telehealth, Social Determinants of Health, Cultural Competency, and Practice Transformation.	1	0

Telehealth Presenter Certification (Required) Participants will learn about the responsibilities of provider and patient sites during telehealth encounters and how to "present" the patient during a telehealth examination.	2	0
TeamSTEPPS® for Office-Based Care (Required) Participants will become familiar with the principles, tools and strategies of TeamSTEPPS® to assist in developing and optimizing team knowledge and performance in an office-based care setting. Adapted from the TeamSTEPPS® for Office-Based Care curriculum (founded by Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality) this course is intended to assist clinical and nonclinical staff in improving the quality of care and patient safety at their organization.	10	0
Quality Improvement Fundamentals & Methodology (Required) Participants will learn the fundamentals of healthcare improvement and basic improvement methodology by participating in Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) online courses and activities to apply learning.	6	0
Practice Transformation (Required) Participants will be introduced to the roles and responsibilities of a practice transformation consultant in quality improvement initiatives in SC. The module provides an overview of Practice Transformation concepts and apply these principles to a case-based discussion activity.	1.5	0
AHEC Scholars Capstone (Required) Participants will complete a capstone project to apply the skills and competencies gained during the longitudinal AHEC Scholars Program to the clinical setting. <i>(Scholars may complete the High-Fidelity Simulation and Reflection in place of the Capstone project.)</i>	7	0
Modules with both experiential and didactic credit		
Addressing Common Challenges in Practice Operations Application of Practice Transformation and Quality Improvement Strategies Developed by South Carolina Office of Rural Health (SCORH) Practice Transformation Consultants and SC AHEC, this course provides students with interprofessional case studies focusing on patient-centered practice transformation and quality improvement initiatives.	3	1.5
Advancing Racial Equity Racism & Reproductive Justice and/or Advancing Racial Equity Housing and Environmental Justice Participants will take an in-depth look at racism as a driving force of the social determinants of health and equity in the United States. Participants will watch APHA webinars, recorded virtual discussions, and complete activities in order to explore efforts to address systems, policies and practices designed to limit and shape opportunities for people of color.	5	3
End-of-Life Care Conversations Participants will learn skills for having conversations with patients and their families about end-of-life care wishes by participating in Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) online course. They will then apply their learning through review and discussion of four diverse patient cases.	2.5	1
Interprofessional Team Case Simulation Opioid Use Disorder in the Pregnant Patient The Interprofessional Team Case Simulation (ITCS) has been developed by an interprofessional faculty team, and seeks to provide students with an opportunity to contemplate patient care in a collaborative way, with each student bringing knowledge of their respective field to the table.	3	2

<p>Poverty and Health</p> <p>In this module, participants will apply new concepts through the interactive poverty simulation that emphasizes foundational concepts decision making behaviors, comprehend individual and structural level factors that are relevant to understanding the complexities of poverty's role and health, describe the history of clinical and evidence-based research that presents significant implications of social disadvantages among America's vulnerable populations, and recognize local and national strategies to address the poverty and health paradox in the US.</p>	1	2
<p>Partnering to Heal</p> <p>The Partnering to Heal training highlights effective communication about infection control practices and ideas for creating a culture of safety in healthcare institutions. Users assume the identity of five main characters and make decisions about preventing Health Care-Associated Infections (HAIs): a physician, a registered nurse, an infection preventionist, a patient family member and a third-year medical student.</p>	0.5	2
<p>Interactive Case Study for Interprofessional Practice</p> <p>This course includes four interactive online modules and discussion questions which review the core concepts relating to communicating with patients, families, communities, and other health professionals in a responsive and responsible manner that supports a patient-centered, team-based approach to the maintenance of health and the treatment of disease.</p>	2.5	1.5
<p>Professional Roles</p> <p>In this module, you will complete two sections: Care Coordination in the Primary Care Setting and The Things They Carried. In the first section, you will participate in an interactive eLearning module which introduces care coordination and common tools and strategies for care coordination in primary care. In the second module, you will focus on Tim O'Brien's <u>The Things They Carried</u>, a collection of stories on the Vietnam War.</p>	1	1
<p>Safer Opioid Use</p> <p>Pathways to Safer Opioid Use is an interactive training that promotes the appropriate, safe, and effective use of opioids to manage chronic pain. It's based on the opioid-related recommendations in the National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention (ADE Action Plan).</p>	0	3
Modules with didactic credit only		
<p>Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know</p> <p>During this course, participants will read the book "Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know" by Adam Grant and explore practical strategies we can use to promote individual, interpersonal and collective rethinking.</p>	8	0
<p>Diabetes: A History of Race and Disease</p> <p>During this course, participants will read the book "Diabetes: A History of Race and Disease" by Arleen M. Tuchman and discuss the complex factors that have changed the common narratives around diabetes in the United States.</p>	9	0
<p>Black Fatigue: How Racism Erodes the Mind, Body, and Spirit</p> <p>During this course, participants will read the book "Black Fatigue: How Racism Erodes the Mind, Body, and Spirit" by Mary-Frances Winters and analyze the impacts of racism on the health, economic, educational, and other social outcomes for Black people. In addition, participants will discuss strategies for implementing systemic change to reduce disparities in outcomes.</p>	8	0

<p>Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor's Reflection on Race and Medicine</p> <p>During this course, participants will read the book "Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor's Reflection on Race and Medicine" by Dr. Damon Tweedy and analyze the intersection of race and medicine in America. In addition, participants will discuss strategies health professionals can use to address healthcare disparities in the black community.</p>	10	0
<p>Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic</p> <p>During this course, participants will read the book "Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic" by Sam Quinones and analyze the complex factors which contributed to the rise of opiate addiction in the United States. In addition, participants will discuss how to address addiction with patients, family members, and the community.</p>	16	0
<p>Combating Maternal Mortality</p> <p>Participants will examine the health disparities involved with the increasing maternal mortality rates in the U.S. and learn about national and statewide efforts to combat maternal mortality.</p>	5	0
<p>🌐 Cultural Sensitivity in the Healthcare Environment</p> <p>In this module, you have two sections to complete: Culturally Appropriate Care and The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down. The first section discusses developing cultural knowledge, skills in understanding cross-cultural interactions, and an awareness and acceptance of the dynamic variety of people and populations we work with are all crucial components of cultural competence. And adding in the lifelong self-reflection process of cultural humility is key to improving care. The second section is comprised of an excerpt and two video clips.</p>	2	0
<p>The Ripple Effect of Suicide</p> <p>Participants will learn about the significant impact of suicide and the provider's role in suicide prevention and postvention.</p>	3	0
<p>Oral Health and Poverty, Part 1</p> <p>This is Part 1 of a two-part module. Participants will focus on the significance of oral health and systemic-related diseases and learn key aspects of public policy and social determinants of health that influence oral health disparities.</p>	3	0
<p>Oral Health and Poverty, Part 2</p> <p>This is Part 2 of a two-part module. Participants will learn the implications of poor oral health and look at potential solutions to reduce oral disease among vulnerable subpopulations living in the United States and examine potential solutions to reduce oral disease burden among vulnerable subpopulations living in the United States.</p>	3	0
<p>Healthcare Access, Utilization and Poverty, Part 1</p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to explore poverty thresholds and traditional poverty measures in the United States, understand the dimensions of healthcare access and describe the usage of healthcare utilization information to improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations.</p>	3	0
<p>Healthcare Access, Utilization and Poverty, Part 2</p> <p>In Part 2 of this two-part module, students will continue to explore poverty thresholds and traditional poverty measures in the United States, understand the dimensions of healthcare access and describe the usage of healthcare utilization information to improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations.</p>	3	0

<p>🔗 Homeless Population Health Lars Eighner spent a period of time living homeless with his dog Lizbeth. During that time, he developed phlebitis and was forced to go to the emergency room for care. Read the short excerpt from chapter 9 of Eighner's memoir of homelessness, <u>Travels with Lizbeth</u> and answer the discussion questions that follow.</p>	1	0
<p>🔗 Social Determinants of Health In this module you will complete two sections: What Are the Social Determinants of Health and Winter's Bone. In the first section, participants will view a presentation on Social Determinants of Health and how they are woven throughout Health People 2020. In the second section, participants view a clip from the film, <i>Winter's Bone</i>, about a teenage girl living in a rural area of the Ozarks.</p>	2	0
<p>🔗 Interprofessional Practice and Education In this module, you will complete two sections: Health Humanities - "How Do We Heal Medicine?" and The Nexus. "How Do We Heal Medicine?" is a Ted Talk by surgeon and writer Atul Gawande in which he reflects on the need for "pit crews" or strong teams in health care. In the Nexus, individuals see the potential of the Nexus to align health care redesign and interprofessional education to achieve the Triple Aim of improving the patient experience of care, improving the health of populations and reducing the per capita cost of health care.</p>	2	0
<p>🔗 Media Depictions of Mental Illness This module is comprised of articles and media clips. You will view different depictions of mental illness and assess the accuracy of these depictions and the way they shape public attitudes toward mental illness and attitudes of primary health care providers.</p>	1	0
<p>🔗 Patient Identities This module contains two sections: Integrating LGBT Health into Medical Education and Rafael Campo's poem, "The Chart". In the first section, you will watch clinical vignettes. These clinical vignettes are a part of a series highlighting various aspects of the health of LGBT and gender nonconforming populations and are designed to give learners the opportunity to analyze clinician-patient communication strategies. In the second section, Rafael Campo's poem, "The Chart" invites readers to consider the value of engaging the patient instead of just the patient's chart.</p>	2	0
<p>🔗 Rebuilding Trust with Patients This module requires students to complete two short exercises that end with a brief reflection. Students will observe a piece of visual art, listen to a podcast, and read a short piece of literature, all of which cluster around figures in South Carolina medical history. This historical "case study" is aimed at providing insights into social histories that continue to shape community attitudes that rural and underserved populations may have toward health care "authorities" in South Carolina.</p>	1	0
<p>Social Determinants of Health Within LGBTQ Populations Participants will gain knowledge and applicable skills needed to advocate and improve health outcomes for LGBTQ patients and families.</p>	4	0
Telehealth modules		

<p>Telehealth Implementation Participants will learn about the process of implementing and sustaining telehealth services in their organization. The course has a special focus on implementing telehealth services with rural and underserved populations.</p>	2	0
<p>Telemental Health Participants will receive an overview of telemental health services, including history, benefits, current models, and resources for implementation. This course includes a post-test and evaluation.</p>	3	0
<p>Foundations of Telehealth Participants will receive a brief overview of Telehealth in South Carolina, including history, terminology, and future directions.</p>	2	0

AHEC Scholars Advisors & Faculty

Regional AHEC Coordinators

South Carolina AHEC is comprised of one Program Office and four regional centers across the state. The regional AHEC Centers provide services to healthcare providers and students in all counties of South Carolina.



Each Regional Center has a Health Professions Student (HPS) Coordinator who will serve as your AHEC Scholars Advisor. In this role, they will advise you on activities to meet the AHEC Scholars requirements as well as assist with housing, rotation/fieldwork placements, and quality improvement projects. Your regional HPS coordinators will serve as your primary guide throughout your time in the AHEC Scholars program.

Regional HPS Coordinators will:

- Monitor your progress of didactic and experiential hours to ensure you are on track for successful completion
- Review and approve self-reported activities to count toward your AHEC Scholars hours and determine the number of eligible hours
- Provide assistance with the South Carolina AHEC Learning Portal (ALP)
- Mentor student teams participating in quality improvement projects
- Work with program faculty to coordinate clinical rotation/fieldwork placements
 - *Note: You should work with your program to schedule your clinical rotations.*
- Provide housing for rural clinical rotations as needed and as available
- Facilitate Interprofessional Team Case Conferences (ITCC)

Lowcountry AHEC

Kimbley Stephens | (843) 782-5052, ext. 106 | stephensk@lcahec.com

Kimbley Stephens is a Health Professions Student Coordinator for Lowcountry Area Health Education Center. She received a BSHS in Community Health from Georgia Southern University in 1998 and a MEd in Health and Physical Education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2005. She coordinates the clinical rotations of health professions students in rural or underserved areas of the Lowcountry. Kim is a National Health Service Corps Ambassador.

Emily Warren | (843) 782-5052, ext. 105 | warrene@lcahec.com

Emily Warren has been a Health Professions Student Coordinator at Lowcountry AHEC for 18 years. Emily received a BS in psychology from the College of Charleston and a MSW from The University of South Carolina. She has been employed with Lowcountry AHEC since July 2000. Prior to AHEC, she worked as a medical social worker at Colleton Medical Center. Currently, she interfaces with South Carolina academic institutions to assist with identification of preceptors and clinical rotation sites. Emily facilitates various interprofessional activities including the Interprofessional Team Case Conference (ITCC) and the Pipeline Activity. She has presented with colleagues at several conferences recently on *Utilizing Telehealth Technology to Provide Community-Based, Interprofessional Clinical Practice Experience for Diverse Learners*. Emily is a National Health Service Corp Ambassador.

Mid-Carolina AHEC

Casey Cato | (803) 286-4121 | ccato@comporium.net

Casey joined Mid-Carolina AHEC in March 2019 as a Health Professions Student (HPS) Coordinator. She received her Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BAIS) degree with concentration in Early Childhood Education from the University of South Carolina. Prior to joining the AHEC team, Casey taught grades 4K through 2nd grade for 30 years. She is looking forward to working with the health professions students to help them have a great educational experience in the rural communities.

Sara Newton | (803) 286-4121 | saranewton@comporium.net

Sara joined Mid-Carolina AHEC in 2021 as a Health Professions Student (HPS) Coordinator. Prior to this role, she served as the Director of Utilization Management at a local behavioral health facility. Her advocacy and strong desire to help others provide a solid foundation for the complex facilitation of roles and resources as an HPS Coordinator. Sara is a graduate of Winthrop University with a Masters of Education in Counseling and Development in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Pee Dee AHEC

Becca Hamilton | (843) 777-5341 | becca.hamilton@mcleodhealth.org

Becca Hamilton joined Pee Dee AHEC in February 2021 as the HPS Coordinator for Medical and PA students. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Francis Marion University with a concentration in Marketing and a Master of Business Administration from Mississippi State University with a minor in Marketing. Prior to joining AHEC, she was the Marketing and Communications coordinator for a charter school in Florence, SC. She also worked for 7.5 years as a business to business sales consultant for Monster.com. She is married with a very energetic son and 2 stepchildren.

Kirstie Hogges | (843) 777-5345 | kirstie.hogges@mcleodhealth.org

Kirstie joined Pee Dee AHEC in August 2022 as a Health Professions Student (HPS) Coordinator. She received her Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Psychology from the College of Charleston and a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Counselor Education from The Citadel. Prior to joining the AHEC team, she worked 7 years at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia as an Academic Advisor for undergraduate STEM students. While in Atlanta, Kirstie volunteered with SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., INC. mainly serving as one of the mentors for their Bridging the Gap program. She has also previously worked in TRIO Programs and Residence Life and Housing at the College of Charleston. Kirstie is the mother of two boys and enjoys spending time with family.

Upstate AHEC

Tina Fulton | (864) 349-1168 | tfulton@upstateahec.org

Tina joined Upstate AHEC in 2005 as a Program Assistant/Marketing Coordinator and transitioned to a Health Professions Student Coordinator in 2010. As HPS coordinator, she collaborates with other staff to anticipate

and meet the needs of health professions' schools, students, and preceptors. Tina has a multitude of experience from several different areas including administrative, information technology, and media relations. She received her Bachelor's degree from Furman University in Business Administration and is currently working towards obtaining her MBA. She is the mother of two very energetic daughters and enjoys volunteering in her church community.

Ways to stay connected

In addition to ongoing communication with your AHEC Scholars Advisor, we encourage you to stay active and engaged in the AHEC Scholars Community by reading the newsletter of learning opportunities (emailed monthly) and connecting with us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

South Carolina AHEC Scholars Faculty

AHEC Scholars faculty serve as your mentors. They will be source of information and guidance, as well as help you navigate the AHEC Scholars program and your academic program requirements. The faculty are available to help you determine how your program-specific courses, experiences and training opportunities fit into the AHEC Scholars curriculum.

Jennifer Bailey, MEd | baileyje@musc.edu

Jennifer Bailey is the Senior Director of Operations and Programs at SC AHEC. She is a Master Trainer for TeamSTEPPS® and has advanced training in quality improvement and change leadership from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Bailey has over 15 years of experience developing, facilitating, and evaluating health professions clinical and didactic education programs, interprofessional education and practice, teamwork training initiatives and professional development curricula for a variety of health care providers. Her research interests include participatory research, social determinants of health, interprofessional collaborative practice and education, patient safety and quality. Prior to her role with SC AHEC, she served in leadership positions at Wake Forest School of Medicine, facilitated the interprofessional core course at the University of South Carolina, directed the required interprofessional core course for MUSC Students, and worked with the MUSC Health clinical enterprise to develop teamwork and interprofessional collaboration training for all clinical staff.

Ann Lefebvre, MSW, CPHQ

Ann Lefebvre is the Executive Director of SC AHEC. She was previously the Associate Director of the North Carolina AHEC program, and has leadership experience in strategic planning methods and the incorporation of new programs into an existing organization's infrastructure. She has been directing the North Carolina Practice Support Program, a statewide, quality improvement initiative serving primary care practices with a focus on improving clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction. This program has been recognized nationally as a model for practice facilitation and coaching. Ann has helped secure more than \$35 million in federal, state and philanthropic funds and has championed the use of technology in the provision of clinical care. She has collaborated and consulted with state and federal agencies and academic health systems to advance population health and respond to evolving health care needs.

Ann received her Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Hearing Handicapped Education from Plattsburgh State University and a Master of Social Work from East Carolina University. She has a faculty appointment at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Medicine.

Kristen Hood Watson, MD | watsonkh@musc.edu

Dr. Kristen Hood Watson is a Family Medicine physician at Medical University of South Carolina with a clinical interest in preventive health. Originally from Maryland, Dr. Hood Watson received her medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She completed her Family Medicine residency at Trident/MUSC where she served as chief resident from 2013 to 2014.

Since graduation, she has focused on her interest in medical student education locally and nationally through involvement with the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM). She has served as the Family Medicine clerkship director since 2014. More recently, Dr. Hood Watson has become the Assistant Dean for Resident Inclusion and looks forward to collaborating on current diversity and inclusion efforts at the University as well as continuing to develop inclusion initiatives.

Betsy Blake, PharmD | blake@cop.sc.edu

Betsy Blake, Pharm.D., is the director of interprofessional education and an associate professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences at the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy. She practices in a patient-centered medical home primary care clinic affiliated with Palmetto Health Richland, collaborating with providers to improve care for patients with diabetes. Blake received her doctor of pharmacy degree from the Medical University of South Carolina's College of Pharmacy in 2000. She then

completed a pharmacy practice residency (2000-2001) and a primary care residency (2001-2002) at the Medical University of South Carolina. Since joining the faculty at the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy in 2006, Blake has earned many teaching awards, including Teacher of the Year in 2010 and then the USC Clinical Practice Teaching Award in 2011. She was also named the Midlands Region Mentor of the Year in 2013. In 2016, she received the South Carolina Pharmacy Association Ken Couch Distinguished Mentor Award.

Blake has been involved with interprofessional education at the College of Pharmacy since 2009 as a charter faculty advisor for the IHI Open School for the Health Professions chapter. She now serves as the co-director for the university's committee for interprofessional education for the health sciences, which includes faculty members and students from all five of the university's health science programs.

Frequently Asked Questions

When will I finish the program?

- Upon graduation of your academic degree program

How can I meet the hours required?

- See page 6 for a listing of available opportunities

How does this relate to other training programs I am involved in?

- AHEC Scholars is a complementary program to the Safety Net Dental program, Rural Interprofessional Behavioral Health Scholars, and ANEW programs. While we cannot guarantee all work will be eligible, we will make all efforts to ensure all relevant work will be counted for both programs. Please see your faculty for more information.

How will this program benefit me, given all the other demands of training? How will being an AHEC Scholar help me to find a job upon graduation?

- See page 4 for listing of program benefits

What's the difference between experiential and didactic credit hours?

- Didactic education consists of online learning modules and elective classes in which material is presented through lectures and readings. Experiential training gives students the opportunity to apply/practice what has been learned in didactic settings, such as with hands-on activities or simulations. Some activities may involve both didactic and experiential components, such as Institute for Primary Care seminars.

How can I check to see if my field placement/clinical rotations or volunteer activities will count toward my experiential hours?

- For experiential credit, these activities must be focused on rural or underserved populations and need to be in team-based settings. To determine eligibility, reach out to your AHEC Health Professions Student Coordinator.

How will my progress be monitored? Who should I contact if I have any questions?

- AHEC Health Professions Student Coordinators monitor each Scholar's progress by reviewing individual transcripts within the AHEC Learning Portal and providing one-on-one advising.

How can I find more experiential opportunities? And how do I schedule these?

- At least monthly, you will receive an AHEC Scholars newsletter which highlights both experiential and didactic programs coming up and how to register. In addition, you can always contact your AHEC Health Professions Student Coordinator for guidance on additional opportunities.

Is it possible to complete the required hours in the given time frame?

- Yes, the program is designed to be self-paced and adaptable to fit your unique schedule.

Do courses taken prior to admission to the AHEC Scholars program count toward credit hours?

- No, credit hours prior to admission are not eligible to be counted towards your requirements.

Are there any meetings where we have to travel and/or be physically present?

- At this time, the program can be completed virtually. Travel is not required, but there are opportunities to attend in-person activities when available, such as continuing professional

development programs and High-Fidelity Simulations.

When do our field placement activities take place?

- This varies based on the Scholar's academic program. Please contact your AHEC Health Professions Student Coordinator for more information.

Will we have the opportunity to get experience working with a provider that utilizes telehealth in their practice?

- There may be opportunities depending on your geographic location, and there are several online modules available which provide telehealth training, such as the Telehealth Presenter Certification course.

Are there experiential hours able to be completed Friday-Sunday to allow for normal academic schedules?

- Many programs are offered in the evenings and the self-paced online modules can be completed whenever is most convenient for you.

AHEC Scholars Checklist

Year 1

- Attend orientation
- Complete baseline evaluation measures
- Complete semester required online modules and:
 - *AHEC Scholars Introduction*
 - *Introduction to SC AHEC Core Topics*
- Participate in at least one *Interprofessional Team Case Conference* (live or self-paced)
- Complete a total of 40 contact hours of didactic activities
- Complete a total of 40 contact hours of experiential activities

Year 2

- Complete a total of 40 contact hours of didactic activities
- Complete a total of 40 contact hours of experiential activities
- Complete semester required online modules and:
 - *AHEC Scholars Capstone or High-Fidelity Simulation*
- Participate in at least one *Interprofessional Team Case Conference* with standardized patient (ITCC+)
- Complete end-of-program evaluation

Required Modules each semester

- Summer 2023: TeamSTEPPS® for Office-Based Care
- Fall 2023: Quality Improvement Fundamentals & Methodology
- Spring 2024: Practice Transformation
- Summer 2024: Telehealth Presenter Certification, plus one elective telehealth module
- Fall 2024: TeamSTEPPS® for Office-Based Care (if not already completed)

One Year Follow Up

- Complete the post-graduation AHEC Scholars Follow Up Evaluation one year after program completion/graduation

Activity Tracking Sheet – Year 1

Activity	Hours		Core Topics Included
	Exp.	Didactic	

Activity Tracking Sheet – Year 2

Activity	Hours		Core Topics Included
	Exp.	Didactic	



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