



SOUTH CAROLINA AHEC
Excellence In Health Care Through Education

connecting

recruitment, retention, and education

South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium

annual report 2013

Executive Director's Report



David R. Garr, MD,
Executive Director,
South Carolina
AHEC

It gives me great pleasure to once again provide an introduction to our South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (SC AHEC) Annual Report. The 2012-13 academic year has been another productive one for our AHEC system. The accomplishments that are summarized in this report would not have been possible without the leadership, dedication, and support of the many people in our AHEC system and our partners in communities across the state. I would like

to take this opportunity to highlight a few of these accomplishments in this introduction to our report.

The Health Careers Program: This program is the area of our AHEC work that helps build the future health workforce. Working with high school and college students, we help them achieve their goals of entering the health profession of their choice. The longitudinal Health Careers Academy for students in grades 9-12 introduces them to knowledge and skills that will help them gain admission to college and be on a path to a career in healthcare. The week-long summer program for college students on the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) campus informs them about the preparation required to gain admission to a health professions program. The early outcomes of both of these programs have been positive.

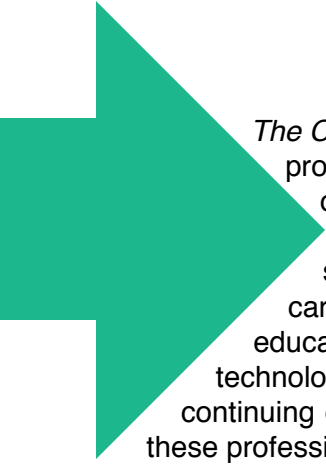
The innovative Bench to Bedside initiative, funded by The Duke Endowment, provides the opportunity for longitudinal communication with students in colleges across the state with the use of videoconferencing technology. This program is gaining increasing attention and interest, and an elective course for college credit is a tangible product emerging from this important program.

The Health Professions Student Program: Our AHEC has been working closely with health professions education programs for many years to help place and support students in community-based clinical sites. The opportunity the students have to learn in excellent clinical sites across the state, many in rural and underserved communities, gives them an appreciation of the gratification that comes from serving populations in these locations. For many students this experience is life-changing, and every year some decide after they graduate they want to return and practice in a rural or underserved community.

We were particularly gratified and grateful the South Carolina Legislature restored the funding for the AHEC Rural Infrastructure Program. These funds were lost as a result of the governor's veto in 2010. Access to these funds permits us to provide housing and support for the many students who are doing clinical rotations in communities across the state.



We are also collaborating with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to train community health workers, and the AHEC center directors and health professions student coordinators have played a significant role in this program since its inception in the spring of 2013. They work closely with the community health workers and with their supervisors in each of the 14 practices where they are working. This initiative is the first time DHHS has been involved with training community health workers, and the partnership between our AHEC system and DHHS has been productive and gratifying.



The Continuing Education Program: Utilizing current knowledge is critically important for healthcare professionals when they provide healthcare. Whether it is to understand and address the needs of returning veterans and their families or teaching nurses how to insert IV lines, the continuing education programs sponsored by our AHEC system are meeting important needs in the state. Health professionals working in hospitals, community-based clinical practices, long term care facilities, home health agencies, and other settings are all benefiting from the high quality educational programs delivered both in person and through the use of live video and web-based technology. Year in and year out, continuing education programs organized by the dedicated AHEC continuing education coordinators receive high marks from health professionals who take advantage of these professionally accredited educational offerings.



Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning: The information and publications provided by the Office for Healthcare Workforce (OHW) are critically important to understanding the present distribution of healthcare professionals in the state and the anticipated needs in the future. The data and reports made available by the OHW are being widely used to help guide decisions about the types of health professionals that are needed and where they are needed the most. As the US healthcare system changes, our state's population grows, and the baby-boom generation ages, we need reliable information to prepare for the future. The OHW is asking the questions and providing information to help our state's leaders make the best decisions that will help provide healthcare for the state's population in the coming years.

Graduate Medical Education: The increase in the size and age of our state population is resulting in a need for more primary care physicians. Our eight family medicine residency programs have been critical to the provision of the family physicians for communities across the state. The SC family medicine residencies attract the best and the brightest applicants to the specialty, and we have been able to retain many of them to serve the citizens of South Carolina. In fact, more than half of all family doctors presently practicing in South Carolina received their training in these eight family medicine residency programs. Some of the creative programs that have been developed by our residencies are recognized nationally, and the close collaboration among these residencies is a unique and positive indication of the responsibility they share for addressing the health needs in our state.

Recruitment and Retention: Our AHEC administers two important programs designed to place physicians, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, and dentists in rural and underserved communities in South Carolina. The Rural Physician Program and the Rural Dentist Program have been effective at providing medical and dental services to communities that have previously had difficulty recruiting these healthcare professionals. The South Carolina Legislature provides funds for both of these programs, and each is making a significant difference in the lives of the people who reside in the communities where these clinicians are now practicing.

The Department for Health and Human Services is looking at how best to meet the healthcare needs in the state. A committee formed to make recommendations about the expenditure of funds from the state Medicaid program for graduate medical education has sought input both from our Office of Healthcare Workforce and from the leaders of our residency programs in the state.

In summary, our AHEC system is doing important work and it has developed many creative programs designed to increase access to care and improve the health of the South Carolina population. It is truly an honor to work with such talented and dedicated people, and I think you will agree after reading this report that our AHEC system is an indispensable resource working to improve health and healthcare for South Carolina's citizens.



A patient was scheduled to see me in the office. While she was checking-in at the front desk, it was discovered that her Medicaid insurance was pending and not active. She struggles daily with memory issues, walking, and just activities of daily living. I will definitely follow-up with this patient today and in the days to come to make sure the insurance is reinstated. She truly has numerous health problems that need attention, and as the Community Health Worker, I can help.

Kimberly Browning, LPN, Community Health Worker
Colonial Family Practice, Sumter, SC
Pee Dee AHEC Region

South Carolina AHEC System

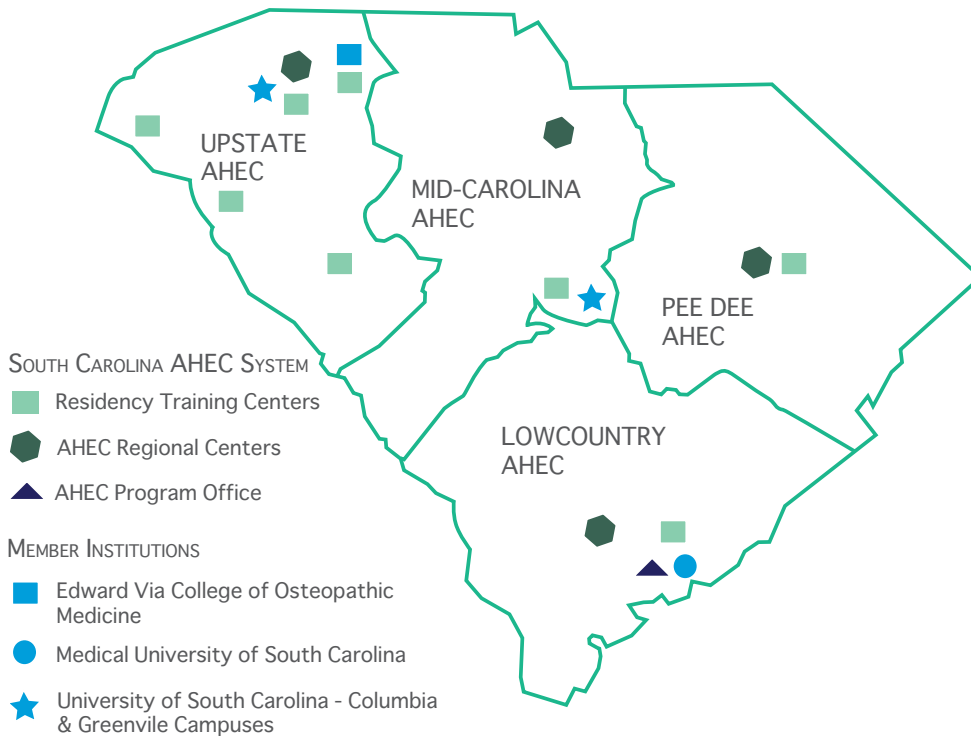
The South Carolina AHEC is committed to being a leader in building a collaborative educational system designed to optimize the health of South Carolinians by achieving excellence in healthcare through recruitment, retention and education of healthcare professionals.

The essential role of AHEC programs in the United States is to recruit, train, sustain and inspire a broad range of health professionals to practice in underserved communities in order to maintain a high quality healthcare safety net. South Carolina is a state that is disproportionately poor, rural and underserved relative to the rest of the United States. Therefore, the role of the South Carolina AHEC is crucial for training and retaining the next generation of healthcare professionals.

In response to the need for additional medical education opportunities in South Carolina, the University of South Carolina opened a campus in Greenville and the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine opened a campus in Spartanburg. In 2012, the South Carolina AHEC invited both of these new medical schools to join the SC AHEC, thereby expanding our academic and community partnerships.

SCHOOLS Locations

- Abbeville Area Medical Center
- AnMed Health
- Barnwell County Hospital
- Beaufort Memorial Hospital
- Cannon Memorial Hospital
- Chesterfield General Hospital
- Clarendon Memorial Hospital
- Coastal Carolina Medical Center
- Edgefield County Hospital
- Fairfield Memorial Hospital
- Georgetown Hospital System
- Greenville Hospital System
- KershawHealth
- Laurens County Health Care System
- Lowcountry AHEC (Walterboro)
- Marlboro Park Hospital
- McLeod Loris Seacoast
- McLeod Medical Center Darlington
- Mid-Carolina AHEC (Lancaster)
- Newberry County Memorial Hospital
- North Greenville Hospital
- Novant Health Gaffney Medical Center
- Oconee Medical Center
- Pee Dee AHEC (McLeod Florence)
- Roper Hospital - Mount Pleasant
- South Carolina AHEC (MUSC)
- The Regional Medical Center
- Upstate AHEC (Greenville)
- Waccamaw Community Hospital
- Wallace Thomson Hospital



The South Carolina Health Occupations Outreach Learning System (SCHOOLS) is a videoconferencing system that permits access to educational programs, health professions student rotation support, and research initiatives. Programs, trainings and meetings are delivered to SCHOOLS locations over a high-speed, dedicated broadband highway known as the Palmetto State Providers' Network (PSPN). The network of SCHOOLS locations and programming continues to grow with more locations coming online.



During my residency training I've learned not only is it important to build a relationship with your patients, but it's also important to develop a great working relationship with other members of the healthcare team, i.e., nurses, social workers, pharmacists, rehab specialists, consultants, etc. This interdisciplinary team is what allows our patients to receive quality healthcare.

Ashley Wilson, MD, Family Medicine Resident,
Palmetto Health Family Medicine Residency Program

This class was so wonderful. As a child of a Vietnam veteran, I already had a great appreciation of what our soldiers do for us. However, this class gave me a more profound understanding and appreciation for the sacrifices that they make for our country and how I can further help them as a healthcare provider. Thank you so much to all of the presenters and to AHEC for offering this class.

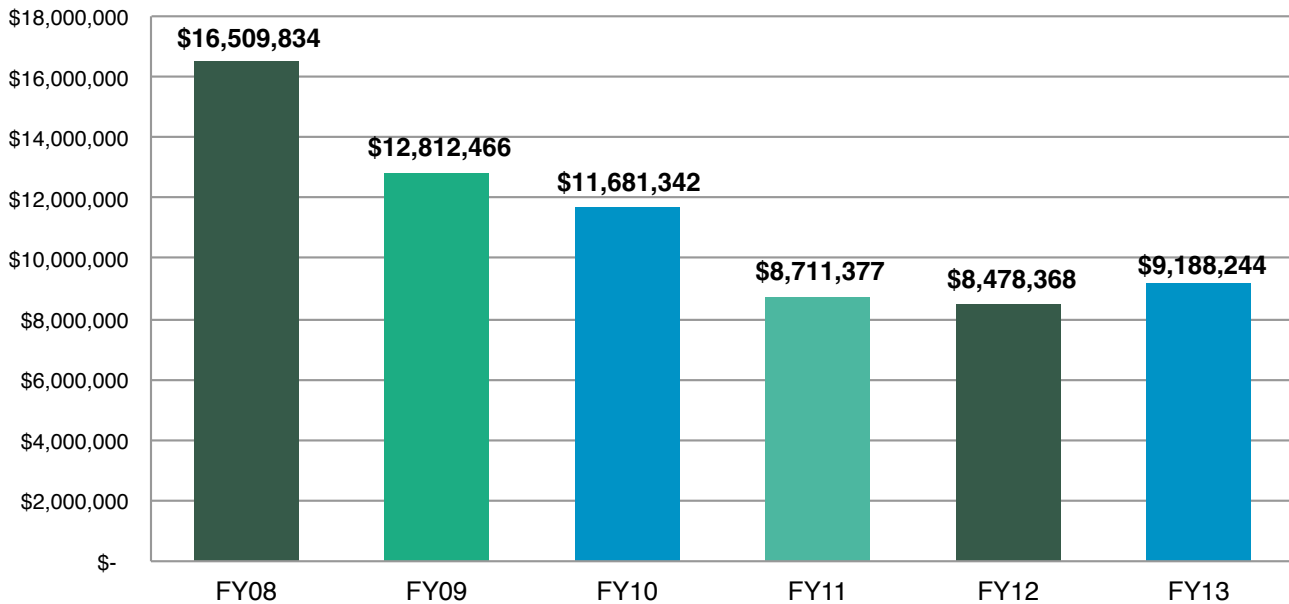
Heather Bishop, Veterans Program Training Participant



State and Grant Funding

2013 State Funding

Funding appropriated by the state for the South Carolina AHEC totaled \$9,188,244 in FY 2013. This funding includes an additional investment in the Rural Physician Incentive Grant program that helps support primary care providers in Health Professions Shortage Areas across South Carolina.



2013 Grant Funding

\$365,708

AHEC Point of Service Maintenance & Enhancement Award - Formerly Model AHEC (DHHS*, HRSA*)

\$200,000

Recruitment and Retention of Future Healthcare Professionals: Bridging the Gap in the Education Pipeline (The Duke Endowment)

\$233,650

Increasing the Primary Care Workforce in South Carolina (The Duke Endowment)

\$53,820

Geriatric Education Center - University of South Carolina (DHHS*, HRSA*)

\$0 (Deferred Funding Due to Carryover)

Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis & Planning (The Duke Endowment)

**DHHS = Department of Health & Human Services*

**HRSA = Health Resources & Services Administration*

The Four Regions in South Carolina

The **Lowcountry AHEC** service area encompasses a diverse 12-county area in the lower part of the state. The lowcountry region of South Carolina is as varied as it is unique. Historic Charleston has its beautiful beaches and history, while the rural counties offer many cultural, historic and beautiful sites. Much of the population in the service area of Lowcountry AHEC is rural and underserved, with a great deal of the population being uninsured or underinsured. Lowcountry AHEC provides a pipeline of health professions education services and programs for middle and high school students, health professions students in rural and underserved areas, and practicing health professionals across the lower and coastal counties of South Carolina.



As an educational pipeline for healthcare professionals, **Mid-Carolina AHEC** connects high school students to career exploration, health professionals to communities and communities to better health. While working with regional partners to navigate the changing healthcare landscape associated with education, recruitment and retention, Mid-Carolina AHEC continues to develop and implement processes and programs that support improved healthcare delivery, especially in rural and underserved areas. Utilizing technology, shared goals and financial resources with regional partners, and a community-based education model, the center plays a significant role in health professions education, recruitment and retention of primary care providers for the 11-county region.

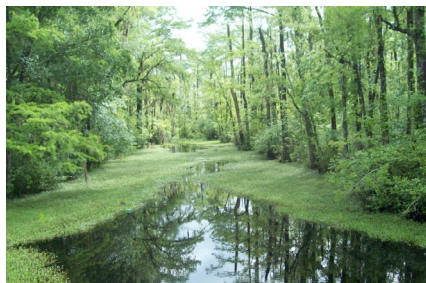


The Dever-Bumba/Waters team from the Palmetto Geriatric Education Center (PGENC) has done an excellent job again! The Alzheimer's & Dementia Learning Series was very informative and thorough. Each session presented an in-depth look at Alzheimer's and dementia, from the biology and diagnostic aspect all the way to practical suggestions for the clinician and family to manage behavior. It is always enjoyable, informative and entertaining to attend a presentation given by this team.

Melanie Rose, End of Life Series Participant

The Health Careers Academy vulnerable population curriculum module has broadened my outlook on what it means to be vulnerable. Now, I am more aware of the different vulnerable groups in my community, and how that vulnerability affects their access to healthcare. This module has increased my motivation to help those who are in need. As a future healthcare professional, I would like to come up with creative ways to provide care they cannot presently afford or access. If more students were made aware of the vulnerability in our community, I am convinced that they would want to do more too.

LaQuetta Wilson, Senior, Colleton County High School



Pee Dee AHEC serves students, healthcare institutions, and healthcare professionals throughout the 12-county region. Located in Florence, Pee Dee AHEC offers three core services: The Health Careers Program for middle, high, and college students; the Health Professions Students Program for health science students; and Continuing Education offerings for practicing healthcare professionals and community members. Through these services, Pee Dee AHEC is working to improve the health of South Carolinians by exposing students to careers in healthcare, by providing community-based learning experiences and clinical rotations for health professions students, and by offering quality, evidence-based, affordable continuing education courses to healthcare providers that refine their skill sets and meet professional certification requirements.



From the smallest 25-bed member hospital, to the largest with more than 1,200 patient beds, **Upstate AHEC** is committed to offering quality services to our partners throughout the 11-county region we serve. The Upstate region's mix of urban and rural communities and a constituency that ranges from high school students to the most seasoned healthcare professional demands an array of exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of Upstate AHEC's diverse members and partners.



Upstate AHEC's mission focuses on recruiting tomorrow's healthcare providers, connecting healthcare professionals to their communities and promoting improved health through education. Three programs: Health Careers, Health Professions Students, and Continuing Education provide multiple opportunities for every person to reach his or her highest potential in the healthcare field.

*Above Top: Edgefield County Hospital
Above Bottom: Greenville Memorial
Medical Campus*



Community Health Worker Success Story

Center for Family Medicine
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System

By: Mareka Stevens, Community Health Worker

This story is about a 24-year-old female with a diagnosis of SLE-lupus, and a history of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. She had just given up on taking her medicines and felt like life was not worth living. This patient had not been seen in the office for more than a year and had not seen a rheumatologist for over a year. She was seen in the ER for a tooth infection and hypertension urgency. Upon the patient's hospital discharge, I had the opportunity to do a home visit with her. During my visit, the patient became tearful and began to express her feeling that she was just tired of taking medicines, and she felt like she has been dealt an unfair hand in life. She inherited her condition from her father, who is now deceased.

The patient felt she was too young to have such serious illnesses. She had been taking several medicines and just decided to stop them all. I sat and listened to the patient and let her get all of her emotions out. I simply asked her how I could help her. The patient was so overjoyed to have someone listen to her for a change without telling her what to do. She felt like everyone was giving her all the consequences of her neglecting her health instead of listening to her. She wanted her voice to be heard and to have an active part in her healthcare.

She ultimately decided that with my help she wanted to take control of her health again. I called and scheduled an appointment with her primary care physicians, and she restarted her medicines. She has started back seeing her rheumatologist and coming to her regular scheduled appointments. She has a new outlook on her condition and life.

Tales of Success

Being successful starting an IV on the first attempt allows patients to feel more calm, safe, and secure.

Speaker and instructor, Wilma Rice, guiding participants in the correct technique for intravenous insertion at a program entitled, "IVT: Tips and Techniques"



Health Careers Program

The South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program (HCP) provides a variety of extended learning opportunities for students to support their matriculation into health professions training programs. HCP initiatives promote the development of academically proficient and self-confident future healthcare professionals. The Health Careers Academy (HCA), the flagship of the HCP, serves students in grades 9 – 12 in the regional academies. The AHEC Centers' HCP coordinators facilitate educational programs and activities during the academic school year for these students. Service-learning, mentoring and academic advising are components of the curriculum, which aligns with the South Carolina Department of Education Academic Standards.



The Introduction to Health Careers HCA Packaged Curriculum is a wonderful tool that increases student knowledge of various professions. This knowledge allows students to pursue the necessary training and post-secondary educational requirements needed to enter their chosen career. This program is an essential asset to the Health Science classroom.

*Twanda Addison,
Health Science
Instructor, Lower
Richland High
School*

Highlights

In 2013, the Health Careers Program experienced an exciting and creative year. The addition of the collaborative Bench 2 Bedside initiative is strengthening the bridge over the gap between the high school programming and the Health Professions Student programming. Funded by The Duke Endowment, the initiative is a collaboration with five South Carolina undergraduate colleges (Claflin University, Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, and Winthrop University). Bench 2 Bedside promotes student/faculty interaction, mentoring, and intercollegiate networking with individuals at the undergraduate universities/colleges and the academic medical center.

- The Bench 2 Bedside Student Success Seminar series provided 136 undergraduate, pre-health students with 290 contact hours of personal and professional development instruction.
- The inaugural Bench 2 Bedside Summit allowed 16 of the most engaged undergraduate students to visit the Medical University of South Carolina for two days during which time they met with health professions faculty, peer mentors, and university personnel to discuss financial aid options, the application process, and housing options.
- Health Careers Academy
 - 4,427 contact hours of programming were delivered
 - 1,515 contact hours of HCA curriculum instruction were delivered
 - 2,319 contact hours of service-learning were facilitated
 - 60 participants earned HCA Scholar status after the completion of a minimum of 60 curriculum hours
 - 81 participants earned HCA Achiever status after the completion of a minimum of 110 hours of HCP activity
- Seven partners, including six schools and one hospital, utilized the new HCA packaged modules to complement curricula/programming.

5,080

Hours of health professions observation time provided to almost 400 HCP participants in healthcare facilities throughout South Carolina

2,319

Hours of service-learning activities completed by high school students across the state in the HCP

**By
the
Numbers**

Clinical facilities served as training sites for 795 health professions student placements

Patient contacts for the health professions students provided through the teaching by 394 preceptors

Health Professions Student Program

The South Carolina AHEC Health Professions Student (HPS) Program collaborates with health professions education programs in our state to provide community-based learning experiences for undergraduate and graduate students. This education is designed to expose students to the realities of clinical practice in rural and underserved areas and provide them with opportunities to help address specific health needs in those communities. The South Carolina AHEC placements give students the opportunity to experience healthcare in a real world setting away from their health science centers. Students are able to interact one-on-one with patients in community health centers, county health departments, homeless clinics, local practitioners' offices and other primary care sites. Students learn firsthand how economic and cultural barriers affect the receipt of healthcare services and the specific needs of underserved and ethnically diverse populations.

Highlights

With grant funding with The Duke Endowment, the South Carolina AHEC established an interprofessional Institute for Primary Care Education and Practice (IPCEP) on the campuses of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and the University of South Carolina (USC). The Institute includes students, campus faculty mentors, and primary care preceptors from the fields of medicine, advanced practice nursing and the physician assistant studies. The breakdown of the first cohort of student participants is below.

- MUSC campus: Medicine 16; Advanced Practice Nurse 18; Physicians Assistant 3
- USC campus: Medicine 7; Advanced Practice Nurse 3

The second cohort of students was accepted into the Institute for Primary Care in the fall of 2013. Students participate in a seminar series, networking activities and clinical rotations with exemplar preceptors. To date, 22 preceptors have accepted the invitation to participate and most were able to attend a Summit in June 2013 designed to inform them about the goals of the Institute and the valuable role they can each play. Institute faculty, staff, students, and preceptors will also have the opportunity to expand their dialogue during a statewide Institute conference scheduled for the spring of 2014.

The four regional AHEC centers have been collaborating with South Carolina DHHS to train community health workers (CHW) for 14 clinical practice sites across the state. AHEC Coordinators initially attended a one-half day meeting for the clinical supervisors from the participating practices and the CHW training began in the Spring of 2013. The AHEC coordinators communicated with the clinical supervisors at least once every two weeks until the CHWs had completed a six-week training course and were deployed in the practices. The AHEC coordinators have provided support for the CHWs during their work in the practices. They have also organized and attended regional meetings with the clinical supervisors and CHWs for the purpose of sharing and learning what is going well and what may need to be improved. It is anticipated the CHWs will make home visits and share information they acquire that will help the members of the practice team better address the needs of the patient.

Low Country Healthy Start's (LCHS) partnership with Lowcountry AHEC is certain to be a very successful one. During the interconceptional care period, along with improving the family's socioeconomic status, LCHS works to ensure women receive health education and information to change lifestyle behaviors so when families are planning their next pregnancy, risks will be at a minimum. Women and families' health improve because of the concept – each one teach one – the education and knowledge acquired will allow the participants to then reach back and teach other family members. All of this will improve health and therefore decrease risk factors, increasing their chances of having healthy babies in the future.

Virginia Berry White, LMSW, Program Director, Low Country Healthy Start



Educational Programs

The South Carolina AHEC supports healthcare excellence throughout the state by offering educational programs to the state's many healthcare professionals each year. Programs provide healthcare professionals in all disciplines with knowledge that allows them to utilize the most current information when they provide care to patients.

Highlights

Lowcountry AHEC conducted a three-year study looking at the effectiveness of an IV Therapy Training program. Based on the data, it was learned that nurses who completed this course improved patient outcomes by improving their IV therapy competence and confidence.

In a broad effort to offer additional behavioral health services to veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Upstate AHEC in Greenville, South Carolina, has sponsored three continuing education programs and three more are planned. These courses are being offered to civilian healthcare providers including primary care providers, psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, licensed nurses, marriage/family therapists and other healthcare professionals who provide services to military personnel or who plan to actively treat this population. Veterans and their families have also participated in this programming. Upstate AHEC is pleased to be partnering with the National AHEC Organization (NAO), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Greenville Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic on this Veterans Mental Health Project.

As partners with the Palmetto Geriatric Education Center (PGEC), Mid-Carolina AHEC provides support for two live End-of-Life and Alzheimer's Disease series each year. Currently, the evaluation component focuses on the participants' increased knowledge and areas of improvement in their professional practices. Approximately 166 professionals were trained through March 2013 with satisfaction scores ranging from 4.5 – 4.75 (on a scale of 5) across all training elements. Additionally, 92% of participants identify an increase in knowledge and at least one modification of their practice with the intent of making patient care changes.

The South Carolina AHEC continues to innovate in the area of online and distance education programs. Over 400 healthcare professionals earned credits towards their re-licensure through live video conferences offered on the SCHOOLS network. An additional 3,100 professionals accessed the extensive online program library provided at AHECU.org. Programs are developed and offered in partnership with numerous organizations and accrediting agencies in order to continually improve the quality of care being provided to the state's residents.



Thank you, Pee Dee AHEC, for providing the Central Line Infection Prevention Program in August 2012. After attending the program, changes were made to our protocols based on the evidence-based information provided during the training. We have seen a continual decline in the number of central line associated infections in our unit since implementing the new policies. The education provided by AHEC is helping us achieve our goal of providing best evidence-based care, thus promoting positive outcomes for our patients.

*Curt Keefe, BSN, RN,
Director of The
Critical Care Unit,
McLeod Regional
Medical Center*

2,761

Program hours made available to health professionals in South Carolina's 46 counties

34,000

Health professionals took advantage of AHEC educational programs

159,156

Contact hours of programming provided to assist professionals in maintaining their licenses and certifications

**By
the
Numbers**

By the Numbers

57%

Percentage of family physicians practicing in South Carolina who were trained in South Carolina AHEC Family Medicine Residency Training Programs, according to the most recent data from the South Carolina Budget and Control Board Office of Research and Statistics

34th

Rank of South Carolina in the nation in its supply of actively practicing physicians, South Carolina ranks 43rd in the number of actively practicing primary care physicians

43

Counties out of South Carolina's 46 have at least a partial designation as a Primary Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA); For 34 of those counties, the entire county is designated as a shortage area

The I3 Collaborative is a tremendous asset and opportunity for our South Carolina AHEC family medicine programs. By sharing our best practices and learning from our partner programs in North Carolina and Virginia, we can really impact the health of our state and region.

*Chuck Carter, MD,
Family Medicine
Residency Training
Program Director,
Palmetto Health
Family Medicine
Residency
Program*



Graduate Medicine Education

The South Carolina AHEC provides support for Graduate Medical Education through a number of initiatives. Our AHEC works collaboratively with South Carolina's medical schools to educate and retain medical students in South Carolina for their graduate medical education. Every five years, the South Carolina AHEC conducts a graduate survey to ascertain Family Medicine graduates' demographics, training needs, and practice experience. The results of these surveys are used to strengthen residency programs' curricula. In addition, AHEC works collaboratively to provide quality faculty development and networking opportunities for residency program faculty members.

Family Medicine Residency Training Program: In order to address the shortage and maldistribution of physicians in our state, the South Carolina AHEC provides funding for and works closely with the statewide Family Medicine Residency Training Programs. Family Medicine is the medical specialty that provides continuing and comprehensive healthcare for individuals and families. The family physician typically functions as the patient's point of entry into the healthcare system. The family physician is the physician of first contact in most situations and, as the initial provider, evaluates the patient's total healthcare needs, provides personal care and guides the patient's use of the healthcare system.

South Carolina AHEC-affiliated programs trained 209 family medicine residents in eight residency program sites across the state. The South Carolina AHEC Family Medicine Residency Training Programs are located in Anderson, Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Greenville, Greenwood, Seneca and Spartanburg.

Highlights

The AnMed Health Family Medicine Residency was selected as a grant recipient site to implement group prenatal care using the "Centering Pregnancy" model developed by a certified nurse midwife in Connecticut in 1993. In a South Carolina study of Centering Pregnancy, the rate of premature delivery was decreased by nearly 50%, and the faculty, residents, and staff at the facility thought this would be an excellent program to enhance the care provided to young pregnant mothers. Starting with the first group in July 2013, AnMed Health Family Medicine Residency is aiming to have at least 60% of prenatal care done in a group setting.

The I3 Collaborative is a cooperative effort by primary care residency programs in South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. The collaborative intends to positively impact the quality of care for patients by educating residents on practice transformation and developing content expertise on advanced primary care practice and quality improvement. The collaborative is presently in its third iteration. Drawing on previously successful areas of focus — improving chronic care and Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition — the present goal is to improve the health of populations and coordinate care in the community.

Recruitment & Retention

The South Carolina AHEC has been committed to the recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals in the state through initiatives that have been ongoing and evolving for more than 40 years.

Rural Physician Program Incentive Grants

The South Carolina AHEC is pleased to report that the General Assembly restored the funding for the South Carolina Rural Physician Program in June 2012. The South Carolina Rural Physician Program was initiated by the South Carolina Legislature in 1989 to address the undersupply of clinicians in rural and underserved South Carolina communities. The program provides incentive grants for primary care physicians who commit to practice in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for at least three years. In FY 2013, 11 physicians, 2 nurse practitioners and 2 physician assistants received funds from the Rural Physician Program.

Rural Dentist Program Incentive Grants

The Rural Dentist Program was established by the South Carolina Legislature in July 2005. The program assists with the repayment of educational loans for dentists who agree to practice in Health Professional Shortage Areas or serve as a full-time member in the MUSC College of Dental Medicine. Healthcare providers are much more likely to remain in areas of need once they have established their practice in those communities. Four rural dentists and four MUSC dental faculty were funded in FY13.

Locum Tenens

The Locum Tenens Program is designed to support the practices and increase the retention of family practitioners and pediatricians in rural South Carolina by providing them with an opportunity for vacation and family time, continuing medical education conferences, or for other reasons that would require providers to be absent from their practices.

Highlights

Eighty-six medical students from the Medical University of South Carolina, the University of South Carolina, the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine – Carolinas Campus and 13 other medical schools attended the 2013 Rebecca S. Seignious Family Medicine Interest Day. Students participated in hands-on workshops provided by the Family Medicine Residency Program Directors and their staff as well as a recruitment fair hosted by the residency programs.

Forty-eight residents attended the South Carolina AHEC Residents' Scholarship Symposium in June. This meeting provided a unique opportunity for residents from all specialties to submit proposals to present research papers on basic research or quality improvement projects. A Chief Residents' Conference was also held at this meeting and residents received instruction on how to be effective chief residents and clinical teachers. This meeting was held in conjunction with the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians' annual meeting.



As an individual who has grown up in rural

South Carolina, I have always endeavored to bring out the best in myself in order to become competitive for scholarships that would support my educational dreams. From the very beginning I have realized the importance of paying it forward, and I have finally been granted the opportunity for which I have been waiting to give back to my hometown. The Rural Dentist Program has already and will continue to allow me to be an integral part of the oral health care of my fellow community members. To me, this is only the most fitting contribution to a place and a people that have significantly impacted who I am today.

*Shelly Catlett Watts, DMD,
Orangeburg, SC*

37

Rural dentists and 13 faculty members in MUSC's College of Dental Medicine have received loan repayment from the Rural Dentist Program since its inception in 2005

196

Days of locum tenens services provided to physicians in rural and underserved areas of South Carolina in 2013

**By
the
Numbers**

SOUTH CAROLINA'S
NOTABLE STATE
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS



The “2012 South Carolina Health Professions Data Book” was recognized by the South Carolina State Library as one of the most notable state government documents of 2012. Leesa Benggio presented Linda Lacey and Nicole McLeary of the Office for Healthcare Workforce with the award at the annual presentation.

An effective Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning has the potential to indirectly affect every citizen in the state through its influence on formal and informal health workforce policies, the state’s educational pipeline for healthcare professionals, and all groups involved in strategic planning around healthcare workforce issues. Such influence is achieved by making available accurate, research-based information about the healthcare workforce in a timely manner to support decision-making.

Healthcare Workforce Analysis & Planning

The Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning (OHW) is dedicated to studying the issues affecting the available supply of healthcare providers in South Carolina. Funded by a grant from The Duke Endowment, the primary purpose is the development and analysis of accurate, reliable data about the healthcare workforce in South Carolina in order to support planning and policy decisions — to ensure that the citizens of the state will have the number and types of healthcare providers they need in the future. OHW reports, policy briefs, data briefs and maps can be downloaded free of charge from the website: www.officeforhealthcareworkforce.org.

Awards

The South Carolina State Library selected the “2012 South Carolina Health Professions Data Book,” published by the Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning, as one of the most notable South Carolina state government documents of 2012. Document librarians each year from across the state along with the staff of the South Carolina State Library select the winning documents.

The South Carolina Health Professions Data Book compiles existing information from a variety of sources into a highly visual resource containing maps and charts that show the number and distribution of healthcare providers actively practicing in the state by county and by several different regional groupings. The book also contains health status indicators and the age and racial characteristics of the population in those same areas. The intention of the book is to provide an easily accessible resource for county, regional, and state planning groups as they address healthcare needs and access issues. Each year approximately 900 printed and electronic copies of the book are disseminated across the state.

“It is wonderful that a publication meant to help inform policy makers about healthcare workforce issues has been recognized as being beneficial to the citizens of South Carolina”, said Linda Lacey, Director of the Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning within the South Carolina AHEC.

According to South Carolina State Library Interim Director, Leesa Benggio, “South Carolina state documents provide a wealth of information, statistics, and share a broad range of knowledge about our state. I am pleased that we are able to publicly recognize these important publications and websites as notable documents, and it is my hope that all South Carolina state agencies continue to produce high quality documents such as these.”

The Data Book can be downloaded at www.officeforhealthcareworkforce.org/data.php.

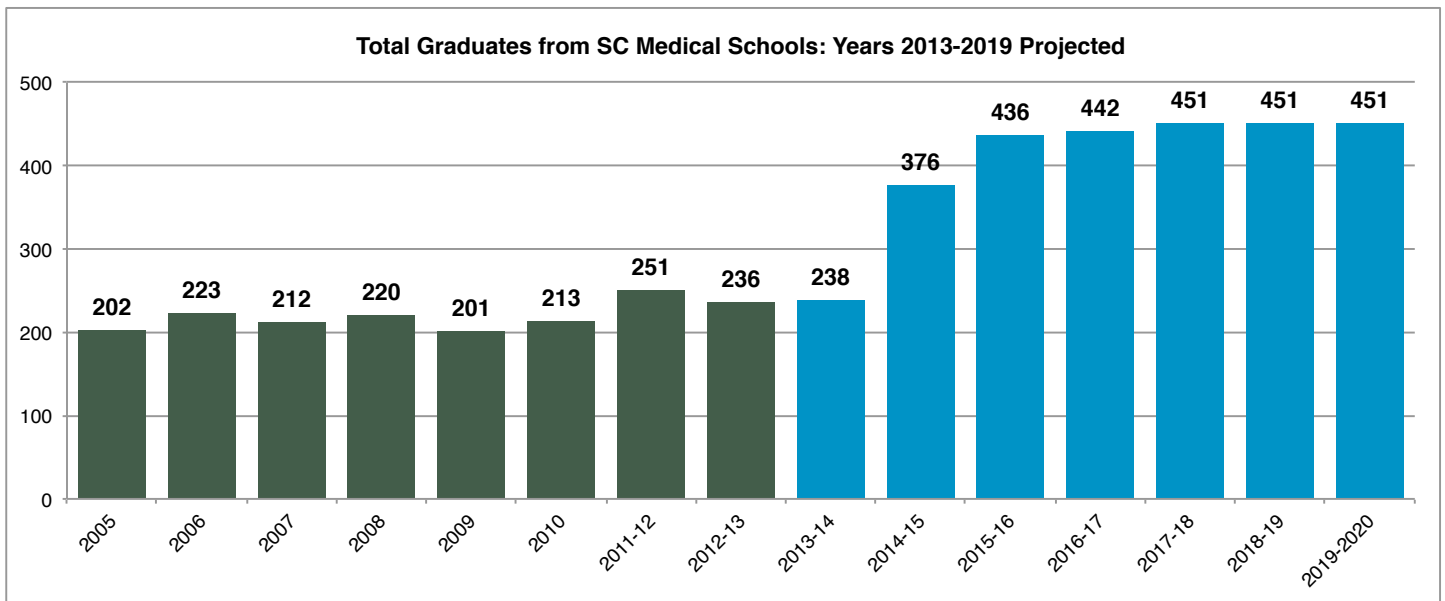
Linda Lacey,
Director



Policy Brief

South Carolina is now served by four medical schools: the College of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston, the University of South Carolina School of Medicine (USC) in Columbia, the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville (USCG) in Greenville, and the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine Carolinas Campus (VCOM) in Spartanburg. These last two schools of medicine began operation within the last three years and have not yet had a graduating class. Graduates are expected in 2015 from the VCOM program and in 2016 from USCG.

This increase in the size of medical school classes will begin to be reflected in graduation figures in 2015. Although not everyone who enters medical school ultimately graduates, the great majority (over 90%) do. Our analysis of first year enrollment trends and graduations since 1980 show that, on average, graduating classes are approximately 92% in size of the first year enrollments four years prior. The chart below shows the trend in the total number of graduates from medical school in South Carolina. Future years have been estimated, based on first year enrollment size in each school and the assumption that 92% of an entering cohort will graduate four years later. The impact of the VCOM program on the total number of graduates in the state can clearly be seen in the projection of graduate numbers for the 2014-15 academic year.



Sources: First year enrollment data were supplied by the respective medical schools. Graduation data prior to 2005 were obtained from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. Graduation data for later years were obtained from the respective schools. Graduate projections were developed by the Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning.

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