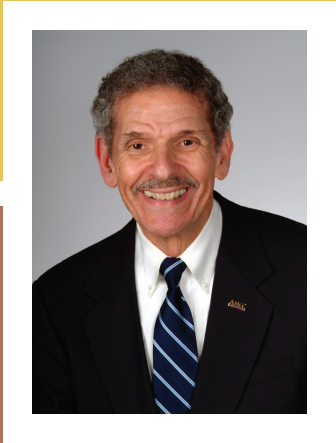




**SOUTH
CAROLINA AHEC**
Excellence In Health Care Through Education



*Connecting Students to Careers,
Professionals to Communities &
Communities to Better Health*



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

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2011 South Carolina AHEC Annual Report. As you will see when reading the articles contained herein, the team of people working within our AHEC system continue to do remarkable work.

The **Health Careers Program (HCP)** has both enhanced and expanded the services it provides to students who aspire to enter careers in healthcare. The AHEC staff members involved with the HCP are very creative and dedicated, and the students and teachers with whom they work are the beneficiaries of their energy and excellent service. We received exciting news in November 2011 when we learned that The Duke Endowment announced a three year grant for the South Carolina AHEC. These funds will be used to support an innovative outreach program to a number of South Carolina universities. The plan is to install video conferencing technology that will be used to provide educational content, guidance and support for students interested in gaining admission to health professions programs after they graduate.

The **Health Professions Student (HPS) Program** continues to do an outstanding job coordinating the placement of health profession students in rural and underserved South Carolina communities. The AHEC coordinators who work with these students assist with the many aspects of their community-based learning experiences. The goal of this program is to provide an excellent learning experience for these students, enhancing the likelihood they will understand the gratification that comes from providing healthcare in rural and underserved communities and ultimately establish practices in such areas. The HPS coordinators also play a major role in arranging inter-professional learning opportunities for students in communities across the state. South Carolina has distinguished itself as one of the leaders in the United States engaged in arranging innovative interprofessional experiences for health professions students. Our AHEC team has been playing an important role in this successful initiative.

Our **Continuing Education (CE) Program** has moved in some new, exciting directions with the use of videoconferencing technology and the internet to deliver educational content to healthcare professionals across the state. The AHEC CE coordinators have been working together to plan and publicize a wide range of educational programs designed to meet the needs of the health workforce without requiring them to travel great distances. Our AHEC was successful in competing for a federal grant that supported the installation of videoconferencing equipment in twenty rural hospitals and in our AHEC offices. This new resource has attracted a considerable amount of attention and has been well received by those who have taken advantage of access to the educational content made available via this videoconferencing system. In addition, the Upstate AHEC and its web-based AHEC U is doing a great job making educational content contributed by the 4 AHEC regions available on the internet to the healthcare workforce in the state.

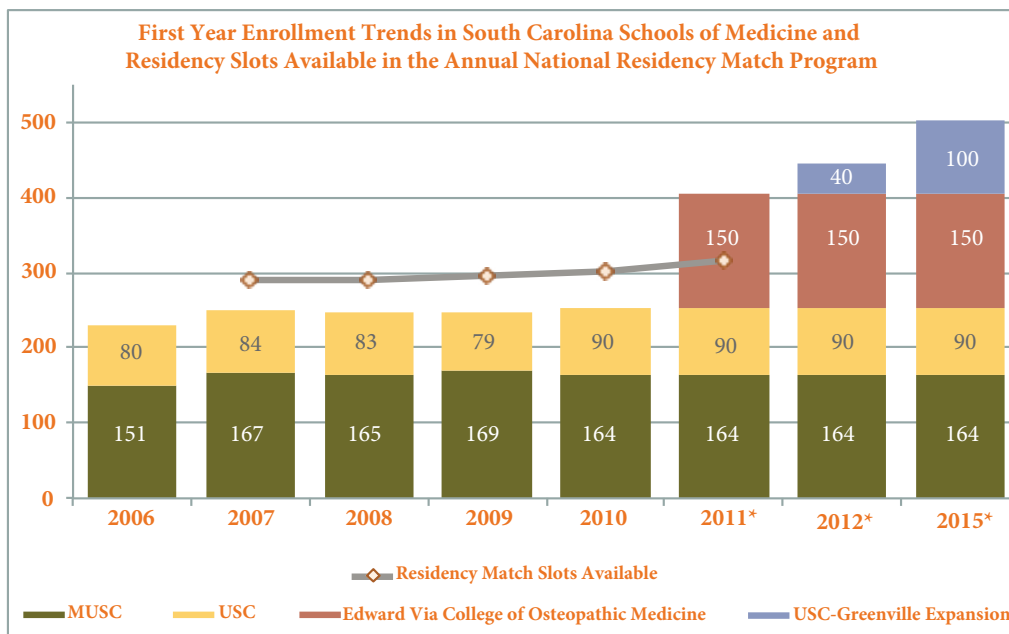
The eight **family medicine residency training programs** continue to do great work preparing the next generation of family physicians. The residencies are attracting an outstanding group of applicants, and the performance of these physicians during their residency years remains excellent. If a student graduates from medical school in South Carolina, data show that they have a fifty percent (50%) probability of remaining in the state to practice. If a student graduates from a South Carolina medical school and from a South Carolina residency, there is seventy six percent (76%) probability they will remain in South Carolina to practice. This statistic emphasizes the important role our family medicine residencies play in retaining South Carolina medical school graduates in our state.

Executive Director's Report

The **Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning (OHW)** continues its excellent work as well. Under the leadership of its director, Linda Lacey, the office published a comprehensive report titled “The Physician Workforce in South Carolina.” The OHW team also prepared the “2011 South Carolina Health Professions Data Book,” having published the first edition in 2010. In addition, one-page fact sheets and policy briefs are being published and distributed. All of these documents can be accessed on the OHW website which is www.officeforhealthcareworkforce.org.

Finally, there was a notable retirement in 2011 of the longest serving member of the nation’s AHEC system. Ms. Rebecca S. Seignious, a highly valued member of the team since our AHEC system was established in 1972, decided it was time to spend more time with her grandchildren and do some traveling. In honor of her many contributions, the annual program she established and coordinated for many years called “The Family Medicine Interest Day” was named the “Rebecca S. Seignious Family Medicine Interest Day.” This program has brought together students from across South Carolina and other states who are interested in meeting with faculty from family medicine residency training programs in the southeast. This program has been cited as a national model, and Ms. Seignious certainly deserves credit for its success.

In summary, there has been a lot of excellent, innovative work being done by our AHEC system during this past year. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated, talented staff and valued partners in communities across the state. We look forward to continuing our important work as we seek to help address the significant healthcare and health workforce needs in South Carolina.



The bars in chart represent the number of first year enrollees in each of the current and proposed medical schools in South Carolina, based on information provided by the schools. First year enrollments for 2011 through 2015 are projected. The line represents the number of South Carolina residency training slots available during the annual physician residency match process from 2007 through 2011, as reported by the National Residency Match Program. Since almost all first year students accepted to medical school in South Carolina graduate, the balance between enrollment numbers and post-graduate residency training opportunities is critical. In addition, as shown on page 13, physicians who attend medical school and complete their residency training in South Carolina are much more likely to practice in state than those who only attend school or residency training in state.

“The South Carolina Office of Rural Health and the SC AHEC’s Seneca Lakes Family Medicine Residency Program proudly announce full funding by the National Rural Health Association for a Rural Health Scholars Program. As part of the Rural Training Track Technical Assistance Program, this venture is designed to develop future rural Family Physicians for our state. By identifying those high school, college and early medical school students who aspire to practice in rural SC, the program will give clinical and social experiences which will solidify commitments to this noble career decision and keep our best and brightest close to home.”

*- T. Edwin Evans, MD
Seneca Lakes Family Medicine
Residency Program Director*





"I never thought I would go through medical school and decide on primary care until I had an amazing experience at Seneca Lakes Family Practice, was able to participate in the Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) Program, and be a part of the Junior Doctor's of Health Interprofessional Student Learning Project. The overall experience convinced me that primary care was my calling. I was able to see first hand how a primary care physician is a key part of a small community, and I fell in love with the patient population of rural South Carolina. AHEC is a valuable part of our state's overall healthcare network by providing education about primary care opportunities in our own state, where it is needed the most."

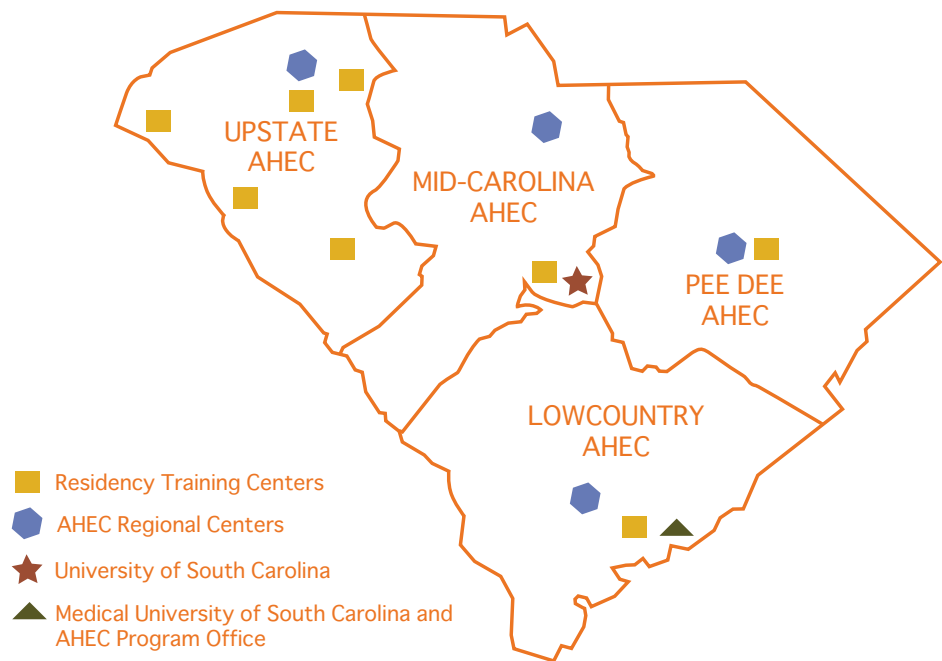
- Susan Hurley, 4th year MUSC Medical Student Upstate AHEC

South Carolina AHEC System

The South Carolina AHEC is committed to be 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 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 addition to the South Carolina AHEC system of regional Centers and Family Medicine Residency Training Programs, the system recently expanded to include hospitals across the state through a telehealth initiative, known as SCHOOLS (detailed on page 10). What began as a network of 5 AHEC centers and 20 rural hospitals continues to grow to include additional facilities across South Carolina. Healthcare professionals now have even greater access to education and training programs in their own backyards.



SCHOOLS Locations

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abbeville Area Medical Center Barnwell County Hospital Beaufort Memorial Hospital Cannon Memorial Hospital Chester Regional Medical Center Chesterfield General Hospital Clarendon Memorial Hospital Coastal Carolina Medical Center Edgefield County Hospital Fairfield Memorial Hospital KershawHealth Laurens County Health Care Loris Community Hospital | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowcountry AHEC (Walterboro) Marlboro Park Hospital McLeod Medical Center Darlington Mid-Carolina AHEC (Lancaster) Newberry County Memorial Oconee Memorial Hospital Pee Dee AHEC (Florence) Piedmont Technical College Roper Hospital - Berkeley South Carolina AHEC The Regional Medical Center Upstate AHEC (Greenville) Upstate Carolina Medical Center |
|--|---|

New Additions to the SCHOOLS Community:
 AnMed Health Women/Children
 Greenville Hospital Systems
 Self Regional Healthcare
 Spartanburg Regional

The Four Regions in South Carolina

Lowcountry AHEC

The **Lowcountry AHEC** serves a 12-county region which includes Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper and Orangeburg counties. The Lowcountry region of South Carolina is as varied as it is unique. Historic Charleston has its beautiful beaches, while the rural counties offer many historic, cultural, and recreational opportunities.

Much of the population in the service area of the Lowcountry AHEC is rural and underserved with a significant portion of the population being uninsured or underinsured. Hypertension, diabetes, and stroke are prevalent especially in the Interstate 95. While the Lowcountry region is fortunate to have many large, state-of-the-art healthcare institutions, due to the difficult economic times, the rural areas are struggling to keep hospitals and clinics open.

The Lowcountry AHEC provides educational services to its rural and urban counties, offering the latest needs-based low-cost educational programs in traditional classroom style, online offerings utilizing AHEC U, or by utilizing the SCHOOLS videoconferencing system. The Lowcountry AHEC was the first AHEC center to offer health professions student programs and the first to offer an interprofessional health professions curriculum. The Health Careers Program works to promote health careers to diverse high school and early college students with the goal of increasing the numbers and diversity of South Carolina health professionals.

Mid-Carolina AHEC

Located in Lancaster, the **Mid-Carolina AHEC** serves the eleven counties of Aiken, Cherokee, Chester, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Union and York. The majority of the region (8 of 11 counties) is designated rural and/or underserved, with an uninsured population above the national average, high-underinsured population, high unemployment, and limited access to care.

The geographic challenges associated with clinical education and training, as well as access to care, have been significantly improved with the installation of the Palmetto State Providers' Network (PSPN) broadband network and the South Carolina Health Occupations Outreach Learning System (SCHOOLS) videoconferencing network, both secured through MUSC and the South Carolina AHEC. These additional tools are providing alternative delivery methods for continuing education, clinical education and access to health care. Our 5,000 square foot office now offers a state-of-the-art 30-seat training room with videoconferencing capability and connections with 20 rural hospitals, three SC AHEC regional centers, the AHEC Program Office, teaching hospitals (Columbia, Charleston, Florence, Greenville) and multiple clinical practice sites.

Leveraging the collective resources of 8 hospitals, 5 academic programs, 91 preceptors teaching across 12 disciplines in rural/urban community-based training sites, community health centers and federally qualified health centers, the Mid-Carolina AHEC supports a clinical education infrastructure that provides education and training at the community level, as well as ongoing recruitment efforts in designated areas of need. In 2010, the Mid-Carolina AHEC coordinated 170 student placements and facilitated the hiring of five physician assistants in three rural counties. These outcomes exemplify partnerships that work!

"During my third year AHEC family medicine clerkship, I had the privilege of completing an interprofessional project in the community of Bamberg. This experience taught me the value of learning from other health professionals as we each contributed our unique experiences to create a comprehensive presentation to a local senior center. By providing students with the opportunity to participate in the Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) program, AHEC fosters the interprofessional and collaborative environment necessary for the future of healthcare."

*- Edward Thomas Lewis III,
Medical University of South Carolina
College of Medicine, Class of 2012
Lowcountry AHEC*



Pee Dee AHEC

The Pee Dee AHEC service area encompasses a 12-county area in the rural northeastern section of South Carolina known as the Pee Dee region. The AHEC office in Florence is centrally located to serve the geographical region that includes the counties of Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marlboro, Marion, Sumter and Williamsburg.

In order to improve the health outcomes of our region's population, the continuing education program continues its long tradition of providing high quality, cost effective, and unique programs to a wide range of healthcare professionals. The majority of the 204 programs offered this year provided education credits for many healthcare disciplines. SCHOOLS and AHEC U, two new venues offering continuing education, were introduced this year. SCHOOLS is a statewide videoconferencing network with over 26 partners across the state, and AHEC U is an on-line program offering continuing education to participants with internet access.

With the goal of increasing the number of students entering the health professions workforce, the Health Careers Program introduced middle and high school students to the wide range of health career possibilities by offering the Health Career Academy, which is geared toward goal setting, educational planning and critical thinking skills. Other opportunities for our future health professionals included a week long Summer Institute at USC Aiken, the Summer Careers Academy at MUSC, and local Summer Enrichment Programs for 20 students.

The Health Professions Student Coordinators partnered with the SC Primary Healthcare Association to offer the SEARCH program to 26 students in conjunction with their requirements for academic, community-based rotations. Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) is a state-based program, developed by the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), to provide opportunities for health professions students and residents to experience clinical rotations as members of interprofessional multidisciplinary healthcare teams in underserved communities.

The Demand for Nursing Personnel

Every two years, the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics collaborate to estimate future employment levels for a wide variety of healthcare occupations. Their most recent report covers the period from 2008 to 2018. The following chart reflects their estimates of how the demand for different types of licensed and unlicensed nursing personnel is expected to change in South Carolina during the next decade. The number of anticipated annual openings includes those due to growth (new jobs) and those created when people leave the workforce due to retirement, career change, or for other reasons (replacements).

Most of the future anticipated openings for nursing personnel in South Carolina is being driven by new job growth. Among Registered Nurses, 59% of the projected annual openings are due to new job growth. The same is true for unlicensed, direct care personnel. Among nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides, new job growth accounts for 71% of all anticipated annual openings in South Carolina. Among nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants, 62% of all jobs are expected to be due to new growth. The one nursing occupation where this trend does not hold true is among licensed practical/vocational nurses where the majority of future openings will be driven by replacement needs rather than new growth.

Although the growth rates (total % change) for the nursing personnel types are not overly large, more than 1,600 job openings were expected each year for registered nurses, and a similar number for direct care aides at the time this study was completed. The economic recession may have reduced the actual number of annual openings in recent years, but the general outlook is still strong.



We are very fortunate to work with Mid-Carolina AHEC on several educational offerings each year. The office provides teaching resources for faculty and staff as well as clinical training to benefit on-campus students and students from other universities. The AHEC continues to be an integral part of our Diabetes Education Center. The courses on the videoconferencing system have been very helpful for regional faculty.

- Pam Giardiello, Marketing Director, USC Lancaster Mid-Carolina AHEC

South
Carolina
AHEC
System

Upstate AHEC

Located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Greenville, the **Upstate AHEC** serves an eleven-county area in the northwest quadrant of South Carolina often called the “Golden Corner.” The region is a mixture of urban and rural cultures, reflected by its demographics: the Upstate is home to South Carolina’s largest and smallest counties, Greenville and McCormick, respectively.

The Upstate AHEC serves Abbeville, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Greenville, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda and Spartanburg counties. The Center provides educational opportunities to a diverse population of healthcare professionals, from the multi-campus Greenville Hospital System staff to five family medicine residency programs to two 25-bed Critical Access Hospitals. To help ease the ongoing budget challenges of local hospitals and facilities, the Upstate AHEC offers affordable consortium memberships and provides educational courses via live presentations or online and through videoconferencing.

Additional challenges in the Upstate region are the shortage of healthcare providers and access to patient care. In some counties, these issues are currently paramount, while in other counties they present a future challenge. In either case, the Upstate AHEC works collaboratively with healthcare facilities to provide assistance and help address current and future needs. The Upstate AHEC seeks to recruit and retain practitioners in the region by promoting health careers to middle and high-school students through the Health Careers Program (HCP). The program targets secondary school minority students to help increase the number of minorities choosing healthcare as a profession. A second program, designed for Health Professions Students (HPS), offers clinical experiences in rural and medically underserved areas as well as in community-based, service-learning areas to college students enrolled in health care curricula. The goal of both HCP and HPS is to encourage students to choose rural or underserved areas when they begin their healthcare careers.

“When I first started the program I was really unsure what health career I wanted to go into. Mid-Carolina AHEC has helped me to find my wings, but specifically has given me another source to help build my resume and find my passion in the healthcare field. I am proud to say I want to be a nurse.”

*- Garrett Wilson,
Dutch Fork High School, Irmo, SC
Mid-Carolina AHEC*



Remains Strong in South Carolina

Nurses and Support Occupations	Employment			Total % Change	Average Annual Openings
	Actual 2008	Estimated 2018	Total Change		
Registered Nurses ^a	38,401	48,201	9,620	25%	1,633
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses ^b	9,955	11,851	1,896	19%	501
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants ^c	20,094	23,395	3,301	16%	530
Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides ^d	31,632	39,207	7,575	24%	1,073

Note: Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse counts in this table are based on survey data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and may differ from counts based on analysis of South Carolina license data used in the “South Carolina Health Professions Data Book.”

^a Registered Nurse (RN), Staff RN, Staff Nurse, Charge Nurse, Operating Room RN, Oncology RN, Relief Charge Nurse, Cardiac Care Unit Nurse, Certified Nurse Operating Room, Coronary Care Unit Nurse.

^b Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Charge Nurse, Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), Clinic Licensed Practical Nurse, Pediatric Licensed Practical Nurse, Clinic Nurse, Office Nurse, Private Duty Nurse, Triage Licensed Practical Nurse.

^c Certified Nurse Aide, Certified Nursing Assistant, Nursing Assistant, Patient Care Assistant, Patient Care Technician, Certified Medication Aide, Attendant, Psychiatric Attendant, Hospital Assistant.

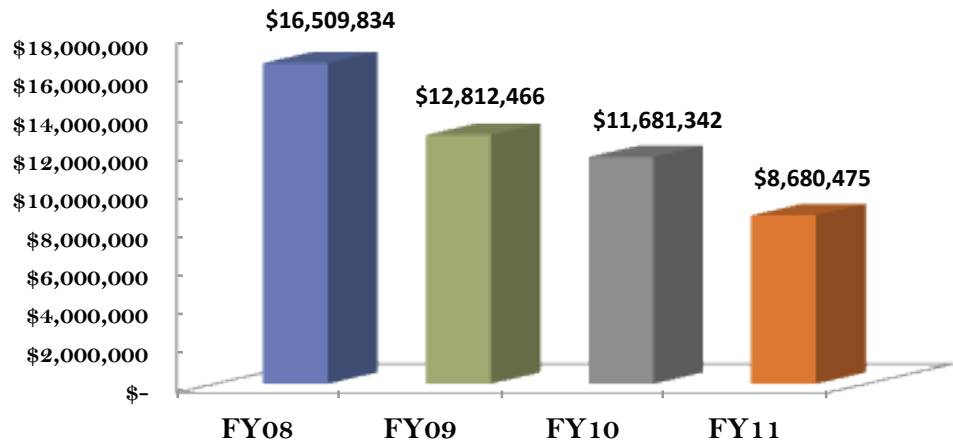
^d Home Health Aide, Psychiatric Aide, Nursing Assistant, and Orderly.

Data Source: Unpublished tables provided by the South Carolina Department of Commerce “2008 - 2018 Healthcare Workforce in South Carolina by Occupational Title.” National occupational projections can be found at: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.toc.htm>



2011 State Funding

State funding appropriated by the state of South Carolina totaled \$8,680,475 in FY 2011. FY 2011 marked the fourth successive year of decline in state support for Institutions of Higher Education in South Carolina, which have suffered a cumulative 44% decrease since FY 08. The South Carolina AHEC reduction during this period exceeds the cumulative reduction for Institutions of Higher Education due to the veto of funding for the Rural Physician Incentive Grant Program and the Health Professions Student Infrastructure Development Program by Governor Sanford.



AHEC has provided me with invaluable exposure to the realm of rural medicine. My rotations in rural practices in Barnwell and Orangeburg arranged by AHEC were integral in confirming my desire to ultimately practice obstetrics and gynecology in a rural setting. I would encourage any student with the slightest interest of practicing rural medicine to take advantage of the various options that AHEC provides.

- Anesha A. Maxwell
 Medical University of South Carolina
 Lowcountry AHEC

2011 Grant Funding

\$577,597

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

\$371,744

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

\$299,901

Equipment to Enhance Training for Health Professionals (DHHS, HRSA)

\$164,413

Junior Doctors of Health (The Duke Endowment)

\$59,800

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

\$42,000

SC SEARCH – SC Primary Health Care Association (HRSA)

*DHHS = Department of Health & Human Services

*HRSA = Health Resources & Services Administration

State and Grant Funding

The South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program (HCP) provides 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, enrolls students in grades 9 – 12 in the regional Academies. The AHEC centers’ HCP coordinators facilitate educational modules and activities during the academic school year. Service learning, mentoring, and academic advising are components of the curriculum, which aligns with the South Carolina Department of Education Academic Standards.

In the Know

- More than 5,600 hours of health professions observation time was provided to HCP participants during this past year.
- Across the state, high school students in the HCP completed 3,332 hours of service learning.

2011 Highlights

- The HCP coordinators from the four AHEC regions modified four of the HCA educational modules (Resiliency, Cultural Competence, Character and Introduction to Health Careers) for distribution to teachers and career counselors throughout the school system. The packaged modules, which include videos, lesson plans, activities, handouts and assessments, were unveiled at the 2011 SC Department of Education Business and Education Summit.
- The Summer Careers Academy, previously conducted in collaboration with three health professions colleges (Nursing, Dental Medicine, and Medicine) at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and the MUSC Library, added a track for prospective pharmacy students with support from the South Carolina College of Pharmacy.
- The Teach-the-Teacher Elementary instructional program for educators of elementary students, designed in collaboration with the MUSC Junior Doctors of Health® and in partnership with the College of Charleston, enrolled its first class.

Health Careers Program by the Numbers

2011 Health Careers Summer Institute	120 Participants
2011 Summer Careers Academy	41 Participants
Teach-the-Teacher Elementary Course	11 Enrollees
HCA Membership	408 Enrollees
HCA Junior Scholars (completers of 20-59 contact hours of HCA activity)	142 Students
HCA Scholars (completers of 60+ contact hours of HCA activity)	31 Students
HCP Achievers (completers of 120+ contact hours of HCP activity)	130 Students
HCA Activity Hours Facilitated	25,663 Hours
HCA Service Learning Hours Facilitated	4,727 Hours
High School Career Exploration Credit	33.5 Carnegie Units
Parental Involvement Sessions	2,550 Hours

Health Careers Program



I would recommend this program to anyone who wants to go into the medical field and needs more help to get there. The internships were extremely helpful. You learn a lot and get to meet many doctors, nurses, and technicians – many different people doing what they do best. I love AHEC and I'm really going to miss it.

*- Tiesha James, Mayo High School for Math, Science & Technology, Darlington, SC
Pee Dee AHEC*



“The SC SEARCH Program is excited about its successful partnership with the South Carolina AHEC Program. This partnership has enhanced access to quality community-based clinical training experiences for health professions students in locations across the state. Access to these experiences increases the potential for expanding the number of health professionals seeking employment in community-based primary care settings.”

*- Priscilla E. Brantley, RN
Clinical Quality Improvement
Manager
South Carolina Primary Health
Care Association*

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 about economic and cultural barriers to the receipt of healthcare services and the specific needs of underserved and ethnically diverse populations.

In the Know

- A total of 216 clinical facilities served as training sites for 728 health professions student placements.
- The teaching provided by 378 preceptors led to 109,873 patient contacts for the health professions students.

2011 Highlights

- Thanks to the cooperation of the Mid-Carolina AHEC and the Pee Dee AHEC, the Medical University of South Carolina Physician Assistant (PA) program implemented an elective course titled the Rural Interprofessional Student Experience (RISE) for 23 PA students during the summer of 2010. RISE helped the PA students transition from the didactic year to the clinical year of their program by providing them with the opportunity to experience an observational clerkship in healthcare facilities in rural and medically underserved communities during the summer prior to their clinical rotations. During this time, they learned about aspects of health care, community service and healthcare administration. By the end of RISE, students became familiar with the demographics of patients in the rural communities and the steps their hospitals take to reduce barriers to care. Students also are able to describe the roles of and relationships between various hospital departments, as well as the relationships between hospital departments and their surrounding healthcare community. According to reports received from the students, PA faculty, hospital participants and AHEC Coordinators, this educational experience has been a resounding success. In the summer of 2011, the RISE program was available in all four AHEC regions and was required for most PA students in the MUSC program.
- The SC AHEC continued to collaborate with the South Carolina Primary Healthcare Association and the South Carolina Office of Rural Health as part of the HRSA-funded Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) project. This program, which provides interprofessional, community-based experiences for health professions students, expanded to all four AHEC regions in 2010. The AHEC Health Professions Student Coordinators placed 56 students from the medicine and physician assistant programs in SEARCH sites this year.

The South Carolina AHEC supports healthcare excellence throughout the state by offering **educational programs** to the state's 150,000 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.

In the Know

- Educational programs were provided to 31,079 health professionals.
- More than 3,365 programs were made available to health professionals in South Carolina's 46 counties.
- A total of 156,359 hours of programming were provided to assist professionals in maintaining their licenses and certifications.

2011 Highlights

- In the fall of 2010, the South Carolina AHEC was selected to receive funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration after submitting an application for an initiative known as Equipment to Enhance the Training for Health Professionals. This grant enabled the South Carolina AHEC to install Polycom videoconferencing equipment in the South Carolina AHEC Program Office, the offices of the four South Carolina AHEC regional centers, and in 20 rural hospitals across the state. This successful grant application led to the creation of the South Carolina Health Occupations Outreach Learning System (SCHOOLS) 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). In FY 2011, 389 health professionals accessed educational programs through SCHOOLS and approximately 100 physician assistant students took part in clinical experiences through the video network. The network of SCHOOLS locations and programming continues to grow with 27 current locations and more coming online. For additional information about SCHOOLS, visit www.scahec.net/SCHOOLS
- AHEC U provides a variety of online educational programs for multiple disciplines to help meet state certification or licensing requirements for health care professionals. More than 30 courses are currently available with others being added regularly. Instructional topics are based on responses to needs assessments provided by healthcare professionals statewide. The development of these programs involves collaborating with the other regional AHEC centers. Courses are also developed and recorded in the studio at Upstate AHEC. On-line distance education makes it possible to reach a larger population of healthcare professionals and students who may not be able to travel to attend live programs. AHEC U programs provide current information and are accessible to anyone throughout the state. Go to www.ahecu.com for more information or to register for a course.

Educational Programs



"With continuing education cost rising and the poor economy affecting the healthcare industry, we are so blessed to have AHEC programs so accessible in the Pee Dee. The AHEC staff has always listened to our needs and responded with courses that are relevant and meet the highest standards related to educational content. We are able to meet the requirements of our licensing boards right here in the Florence area in a cost efficient manner while not jeopardizing quality. Thank you so much for all you do for me and my staff."

*- Allen Strickland, PT
Florence, SC - Pee Dee AHEC*



“As noted by the results of this survey, the family medicine residency programs affiliated with the SC AHEC are providing a significant number of primary care physicians to the people of South Carolina. These physicians are providing a wide range of services to the diverse population of patients in our state.”

*- Peter Carek, MD
Trident/MUSC Family Medicine
Residency Program Director*

Graduate Medical Education

The South Carolina AHEC provides support for **Graduate Medical Education** through a number of initiatives. AHEC assists residency programs in maintaining their ACGME accreditation and aspires for 100% of the graduates of the South Carolina AHEC-affiliated residencies to successfully pass their specialty board certification exams. Every five years, the South Carolina AHEC conducts a graduate survey to ascertain 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.

LOCATIONS OF THE AHEC RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMS: South Carolina AHEC Residency Training Programs are located in Anderson, Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Greenville, Greenwood, Seneca and Spartanburg.

In the Know

- According to the most recent data from the South Carolina Budget and Control Board Office of Research and Statistics, the majority (57%) of the family physicians practicing in South Carolina were trained in South Carolina AHEC Family Medicine Residency Training Programs.
- South Carolina ranks 34th in the nation in its supply of actively practicing physicians but ranks 43rd in the number of actively practicing primary care physicians.
- Of South Carolina’s 46 counties, 45 have at least a partial designation as a Primary Care Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA); in 33 of those, the entire county is designated as a shortage area.

2011 Highlights

- South Carolina AHEC-affiliated programs trained 332 residents in the primary care specialties of family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics.
- A survey of recent South Carolina AHEC Family Medicine graduates finds that more than half of the graduates (52.2%) practice in South Carolina and most (71.1%) practice in a community of fewer than 100,000 persons.
- Almost all South Carolina AHEC Family Medicine Residency graduates (95.6%) were certified by the American Board of Family Medicine.

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 almost 40 years.

RURAL DENTIST PROGRAM INCENTIVE GRANTS: The Rural Dentist Program was established by the South Carolina Legislature in July of 2005. The program assists with the repayment of educational loans for dentists who agree to practice in a Health Professional Shortage Area or serve as a full-time faculty 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.

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.

In the Know

- Twenty-nine rural dentists and twelve faculty members in MUSC's College of Dental Medicine received funds from the Rural Dentist Loan Repayment Program.
- More than 135 days of locum tenens services were provided to physicians in rural and underserved areas of South Carolina in 2011.

2011 Highlights

- Sixty-nine medical students from the Medical University of South Carolina, the University of South Carolina, and 19 other medical schools attended the 2011 Rebecca S. Seignious Family Medicine Interest Day. Students participated in hands-on workshops provided by the Family Medicine Residency Program Directors and their staffs as well as in a recruitment fair hosted by the residency programs.
- Forty-five residents attended the South Carolina AHEC Family Medicine Residents' Annual Meeting 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, also held at this meeting, instructed the residents how to be effective chief residents and clinical teachers. This meeting occurred in conjunction with the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians' Annual Meeting.

Recruitment & Retention



"Being accepted as part of the Rural Dentist loan repayment program is a great help in providing the additional support needed to assist me in providing Pediatric Dental services to children and special needs adults that rely on me and my practice for their oral health needs".

*- Dr. Isabel Driggers,
Owner and Founder of Coastal
Kids Dental & Braces,
Hanahan, SC*

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, our 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, which 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 our website: www.OfficeforHealthcareWorkforce.org.



“The AHEC program is a critical element in the development of our primary care workforce – both at the state level and nationally. The research conducted by the Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning both supports and helps focus the various programs implemented by AHEC.”

- Linda Lacey, Director

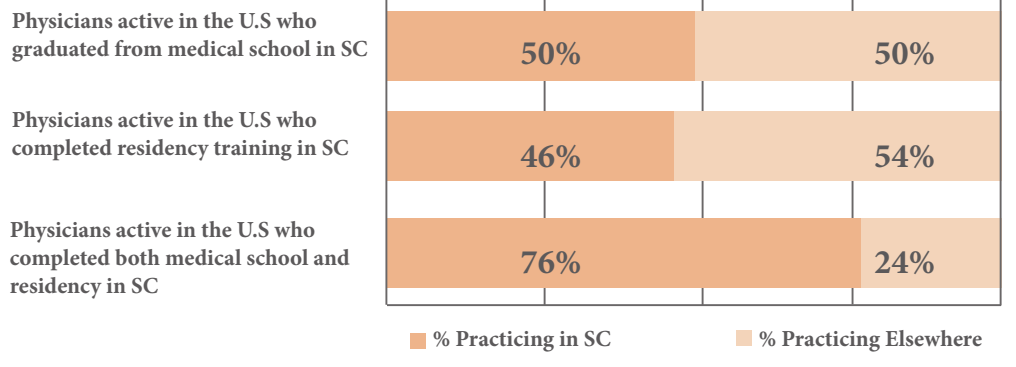
During the past year, the OHW has published:

- Fastest Growing Healthcare Occupations in South Carolina
- The Demand for Nursing Personnel Remains Strong in South Carolina
- Expected Growth Rates in the South Carolina Dental Care Workforce
- Growth Rates Vary for Different Allied Health Professions in South Carolina
- Employment Forecast for the Pharmacy, Physical and Occupational Therapy Workforce in South Carolina
- Strong Job Growth Expected for the Medical Workforce in South Carolina
- Medical Student Residency Training Slots in South Carolina
- Retaining Physicians Educated in South Carolina

In addition to policy and data briefs, OHW also published the “2011 South Carolina Health Professions Data Book,” a resource that is updated annually to provide the most current information about the supply and geographic distribution of 17 different groups of licensed healthcare providers, along with information about community demographics, health status indicators and vital statistics.

Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning

Physician Retention Rates by Education Location



Data Source: 2009 State Physician Workforce Data Book, Center for Workforce Studies, Association of American Medical Colleges, Published November, 2009. Physician counts are from the American Medical Association Masterfile as of December 31, 2008: Table17 Physicians Retained from Undergraduate Medical Education (UME), Table19 Physicians Retained from GME, Table20 Physicians Retained from Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) and (GME) Combined.

Strong Job Growth Expected for the Medical Workforce in South Carolina

Physicians and Physician Assistants	Employment			Total % Change	Average Annual Openings
	Estimated 2008	Estimated 2018	Total Change		
Family and General Practitioners	1,763	2,152	389	22%	70
Internists, General ^a	662	838	176	27%	30
Pediatricians, General	229	291	62	27%	10
Obstetricians and Gynecologists	445	571	126	28%	21
Anesthesiologists	931	1,171	240	26%	40
Surgeons	770	996	226	29%	37
Physicians and Surgeons, All Other ^b	2,877	3,523	646	22%	116
Physician Assistants	595	833	238	40%	35

Note: Physician and Physician Assistant job estimates in this table are based on industry survey data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and differ from head counts of licensed South Carolina professionals reported in the South Carolina Professions Data Book. Internal Medicine and Pediatrician jobs in this table are restricted to only those focused on general practice – jobs for specialists are excluded from those numbers.

a The occupational title “Internists, General” includes the following job titles: Physician, Internist, Internal Medicine, Medical Doctor, General Internist, Attending Physician, Gastroenterologist, Clinic MD Associate, Internal Medicine Doctor, and Pulmonary Physician.

b The occupational title “Physicians and Surgeons, All Other” includes the following job titles: Allergists and Immunologists, Dermatologists, Hospitalists, Neurologists, Nuclear Medicine, Ophthalmologists, Pathologists, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physicians, Preventive Medicine, Radiologists, Sports Medicine Physicians, and Urologists.

Data Source: Unpublished tables provided by the South Carolina Department of Commerce “2008 - 2018 Healthcare Workforce in South Carolina by Occupational Title.” National occupational projections can be found at: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.toc.html>

To view other publications, visit our website:
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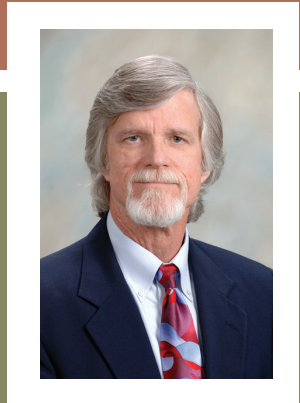
Fastest Growing Healthcare Occupations in South Carolina

Occupational Title	Employment			Total % Change	Average Annual Openings
	Actual 2008	Estimated 2018	Total Change		
1. Registered Nurses	38,401	48,021	9,620	25%	1,633
2. Nursing, Psychiatric and Home Health Aides	31,632	39,207	7,575	24%	1,073
3. Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	20,094	23,395	3,301	16%	530
4. Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses	9,955	11,851	1,896	19%	501
5. Pharmacy Technicians	5,494	7,631	2,137	39%	353
6. Medical Assistants	7,099	9,484	2,385	34%	318
7. Pharmacists	4,419	5,476	1,057	24%	204
8. Dental Assistants	3,247	4,446	1,199	37%	181
9. Dental Hygienists	2,599	3,578	979	38%	151
10. Physicians and Surgeons, All Other	2,877	3,523	646	22%	116

Note: The group “Physicians and Surgeons, All Other” contains the following job titles: Allergists and Immunologists, Dermatologists, Hospitalists, Neurologists, Nuclear Medicine Physicians, Ophthalmologists, Pathologists, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physicians, Preventive Medicine Physicians, Radiologists, Sports Medicine Physicians, and Urologists

Data Source: Unpublished tables provided by the South Carolina Department of Commerce “2008 - 2018 Healthcare Workforce in South Carolina by Occupational Title.” National occupational projections can be found at: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.toc.htm>

“The arrival of the Via College of Osteopathic Medicine is the direct result of the Spartanburg Family Medicine Program taking the step to dual accreditation with the American Osteopathic Association in 2005. We pursued this additional accreditation due to the fact that the whole person philosophy of osteopathy is the direct match to the specialty of Family Medicine. Allopathic residents are now learning osteopathic manual medicine and having their eyes opened to the utility of these maneuvers to enhance healing. In addition, the residency program now has a greatly enhanced pool of excellent, well-trained students from which to recruit. It is proving to be the best and most profoundly positive change in medical education in Spartanburg in decades.”



- Otis L. Baughman III, MD, CPE, FAAFP
Director of Medical Education
Associate Dean - MUSC (Spartanburg)

SOUTH CAROLINA AHEC

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