

Area Health Education Centers

Kansas' main health education outreach effort

The University of Kansas Medical Center Area Health Education Centers were founded in 1978, through the combined efforts of the Governor, State Legislature and KU Medical Center. The AHEC offices in Hays, Kansas City and Pittsburg are part of the university's and state's health education outreach effort, and AHEC staff primarily work with rural communities throughout Kansas.

Enhancing health services quality, accessibility

Through partnerships with communities, health care professionals and organizations, educational institutions and other interested individuals and agencies, the AHECs offer a variety of services, including:

- Community education and health screenings
- Facilitating health research in communities facing those issues
- Developing and implementing clinical opportunities for students in the health professions' programs

Promoting careers in the health care field

The Area Health Education Centers work to showcase the variety of health care career opportunities available to Kansas high school students who may not otherwise be introduced to the vast health care field, as well as health cluster teachers. Programs include:

- **Night @ the Lab** – a new competition where students research health topics and put together a presentation for the community
- **Women in Health Care: The Next Generation** – 13 junior and senior female students do hands-on learning at KU Medical Center and interact with women in leadership roles in health care
- **CampMed** – students learn about health careers in a day-long, hands-on event in small group sessions with health professionals
- **Teacher Summer Externships** for health cluster teachers – a continuing education program where teachers shadow different health care professionals at KU Medical Center
- **Mini Medical School** – a way to seamlessly integrate health care experiences into existing science curriculum through innovative modules and activities. The all-inclusive kit is free to teachers.

Continuing education programming

The AHECs provide health professionals in rural Kansas access to quality continuing education opportunities through a variety of formats:

- In-person presentations
- Internet seminars
- Interactive televideo (ITV) programs

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2,403

Kansas high school students participated in AHEC activities in FY 2015 that encouraged them to consider careers in health care and science

19

Kansas high schools have a Mini Medical School kit; 12 more are on a waiting list for when additional funding becomes available

507

Continuing education programs were available in FY 2015 for Kansas health care professionals

9,292

Health professional enrollments in AHEC continuing education programs



Shawnee Mission North High School's Nancy Dinh-Phan, Oluoma Obi and Edan Belihu won the 2015 statewide Night@ the Lab competition with their presentation on cancer.