


Slide 1

**AHEC's Niche in Continuing Education**

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Executive Director  
Northern Nebraska AHEC



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Slide 2

**What is AHEC?**

Area Health Education Center  
The purpose of the AHEC programs is to:

- Develop and enhance education and training networks within communities, academic institutions, and community-based organization.
- AHECs in turn support HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce strategic priorities to:
  - Increase diversity among health professionals
  - Broaden the distribution of the health workforce and enhance health care quality
  - Improve health care delivery to rural and underserved areas and population

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Slide 3

**AHEC Across the Country**

- 53 AHEC Programs
- 248 AHEC Centers
- 46 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Palau, Yap, American Samoa, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Serving more than 85% of counties in the United States

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Slide 4

**Goals of AHEC**

- Increase the number and diversity of health professionals
- Increase training opportunities for health profession students
- Provide support and activities to retain health professionals

*All with an emphasis on rural and underserved communities*

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Slide 5

**Health Career Promotion**

- AHECs are committed to expanding the health care workforce, by maximizing diversity and facilitating distribution, especially in underserved communities.
- Offer creative, hands-on and innovative health careers curriculum for students (grades 9-16).
- Introduce students to a wide assortment of health career possibilities; guide them in goal setting and educational planning, and offer courses that strengthen critical thinking skills (grades 9-20).
- Work with schools, colleges and community partners to target economically disadvantaged students and those from underrepresented minority groups in school programs and summer institutes.



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Slide 6

**Health Professions Students**

*AHECs are uniquely qualified to facilitate clinical placements because of its linkages to local healthcare resources and organizations.*

- Coordinate AHEC clinical placements by putting health professions students in real world settings: migrant, urban, rural, CHCs and health departments working with underserved populations.
- Have students participate in AHEC Service Learning programs to help them develop an awareness of the economic and cultural barriers in healthcare delivery.
- Give health professions students who participate in AHEC-sponsored clinical placements a better understanding of the complex needs of underserved communities.
- Motivate students to practice in underserved areas following training.

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Slide 7

### Health Care Professionals

- *AHEC focus on recruitment, placement, and retention activities to address community and state health care workforce needs.*
- Provide accredited continuing education programs and professional support to meet the needs of health care professionals, especially those practicing in underserved areas.
- Designed programs to enhance clinical skills and help maintain professional certifications.
- Provide information dissemination on health care issues and participate in collaborative community-based research.



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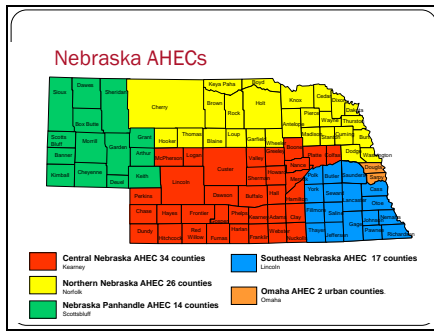
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Slide 8



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Slide 9

### Refined Focus

In FY 2017 the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) is undertaking a redesign of several programs, including the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program, to reduce duplication of HRSA-funded programs, increase measurable outcomes, and increase program's success.

- **Focus Areas**
  - **Distribution**
    - Improving workforce distribution throughout the state, particularly among rural and underserved areas and populations; and
  - **Diversity**
    - Preparing a diverse, culturally competent primary care workforce representative of the communities we serve; and
  - **Practice Transformation**
    - Developing and maintaining a health care workforce that is prepared to deliver high quality care in a transforming health care delivery system with an emphasis on rural and underserved areas and communities.

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Slide 10

**Core Topics**

- Support didactic and experiential training focused on the following core topic areas
  - Inter-professional Education
  - Behavioral Health Integration
  - Social Determinants of Health
  - Cultural Competency
  - Practice Transformation
  - Current and emerging health issues

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Slide 11

**Why Continuing Education?**

- AHEC has strong connections with health professionals who train health profession students
- Past experience with continuing education providing local and national programming
- Strong linkage with UNMC
- Linkages with the National AHEC Organization continuing education projects
  - Veteran Mental Health
  - Health Insurance Marketplace
  - Opioids
  - HPV Vaccination

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Slide 12

**Regional Educational Collaborative**

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Slide 13

**Regional Educational Collaborative**

- Why a collaborative?
  - Better utilization of federal funds
  - More partners, healthcare partners, established health care networks
  - Large pool of potential speakers
  - Ability to replicate best practices across state lines
  - Nebraska is the lead with the National AHEC Organization and HRSA with over 8 years of experience doing national continuing education programming

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Slide 14

**Regional Educational Collaborative**

- Who is involved?
  - South Dakota AHEC
    - 2 AHEC Centers
    - Strong FQHC network
    - Native American focus
  - Missouri AHEC
    - 6 AHEC Centers
    - Large AHEC Network with multiple academic partners
    - Multiple healthcare partners
    - Diversity focus
  - Nebraska AHEC
    - 5 AHEC Centers
    - Strong university linkages
    - Expansive university network
    - National expertise in webinar technology

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Slide 15

The slide displays three logos. At the top left is the South Dakota AHEC logo, featuring the text 'South Dakota AHEC Area Health Education Center' next to a red outline of the state of South Dakota. At the bottom left is the Nebraska AHEC logo, with 'NEBRASKA AHEC Area Health Education Centers' in a stylized red and black font. At the bottom right is the MAHEC logo, which includes the text 'MAHEC MISSOURI AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS' above a blue map of Missouri with various locations marked.

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Slide 16

**Regional Educational Collaborative**

- How will this work?
  - Each state will be responsible for a certain number of programs yearly
  - Nebraska AHEC will provide the leadership for technical components (webinar, post webinar activity, registration and evaluation)
  - CME/CE availability has not been determined

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Slide 17

**Next Steps**

- Speakers
  - Speakers will come from needs assessment responses
  - Each states own experts and leaders
- Advertising
  - Done by state AHEC entities
  - Partner organizations
  - Websites and Social Media

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Slide 18

**Next Steps**

- Needs Assessment
  - Needs Assessment will be designed in early fall
  - Assessment to be conducted December/January in each state
- Educational offerings
  - First webinar early 2018
  - Anticipate quarterly for 2018
  - Moving to bi-monthly in 2018-2019

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Slide 19

**Call to Action**

- What can you do?
  - Let us know your interest in educational programs with a statewide focus
  - Share topics of interest for education
  - Let us know if you'd like to be a speaker, or know a speaker
  - Let us know your interest in sharing the needs assessment with your health professionals

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Slide 20

**Contact information**

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