



Area Health Education Centers

Annual Report

August 2010



UAMS

**AREA HEALTH
EDUCATION CENTERS**

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES









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Message from the Executive Director

With an increase in state funding received this year, we were able to add several new programs, expand existing programs, and position ourselves well for health care reform opportunities in the future.

Specific accomplishments for FY10 include:

- ✦ Hired pre-health professions recruiters at all of our AHECs to promote interest in health careers among junior high, high school and college students statewide.
- ✦ Hired community outreach directors at all of our AHECs to develop programs in diabetes education, prescription assistance, school health, and community health screenings.
- ✦ Continued to develop our IT infrastructure, transitioning all AHECs onto a common electronic medical records version, and exploring implementation of an e-prescribing and chronic disease management program at all of the AHEC clinics.
- ✦ Recruited 4 additional family medicine residents and 6 new family medicine faculty to our residency programs.
- ✦ Submitted 4 training grant proposals to boost our medical student teaching programs, residency training programs, and many of our AHEC programs.
- ✦ Worked with the Center on Clinical and Translational Research on community engagement initiatives, revitalizing the OzarkNet practice-based research network, and supporting innovation and research projects in the AHECs.
- ✦ Developed a part-time faculty development fellowship for new AHEC faculty.
- ✦ Reorganized our Rural Hospital Program with other components into a new Center for Rural Health, and established its location at the UAMS Ed South building on campus.



I attribute many of our accomplishments to new ways AHEC and UAMS are collaborating more closely. In the past, AHECs have been very independent. While stimulating many innovative programs, those programs often were not shared, resulting in duplication of effort. I am very pleased to report that the AHEC network is increasingly working like a true network, sharing best practices, learning from one another, and moving forward as a unit to implement programs that raise our standards statewide.

If reforms enacted under the Patient Protection and Affordability Act actually happen, it will dramatically change the health care environment in Arkansas and for our AHEC and Center for Rural Health programs. We are currently engaged in a planning process, both among the center directors and with our key stakeholders, to determine how to take advantage of many of these opportunities.

I also want to celebrate the career of James "Bud" McFadin. As Assistant Vice Chancellor for Regional Programs and Associate Director for Administration of the AHEC Program, Mr. McFadin has been the solid right arm of the executive director for over 25 years. Officially stepping down from those positions at the end of December 2009, Bud continued to work part-time to see us through the transition as Mr. Sterling Moore took over his position. Bud has generously agreed to help us in the future, should we need his skills, but he is leaving UAMS as an official employee at the end of June 2010. We wish Bud a fond farewell, and hope that he invites us to his house on the lake often.

In conclusion, FY2010 was a year of great accomplishments, great challenges and great change, with significant opportunities developing under health care reform. With our stakeholders' help, we will continue to advance the mission of the AHEC Program to train quality health professionals for rural Arkansas in order to improve health and healthcare across the state.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark B. Mengel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark B. Mengel, MD, MPH
Executive Director, Arkansas AHEC Program
Vice-Chancellor for UAMS Regional Programs

History of AHEC and Regional Programs

The Arkansas Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program was founded in 1973, through combined efforts of the Governor, the State Legislature, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), as a means to encourage UAMS medical school graduates to remain in Arkansas, and help address the state's shortage and maldistribution of primary care physicians.

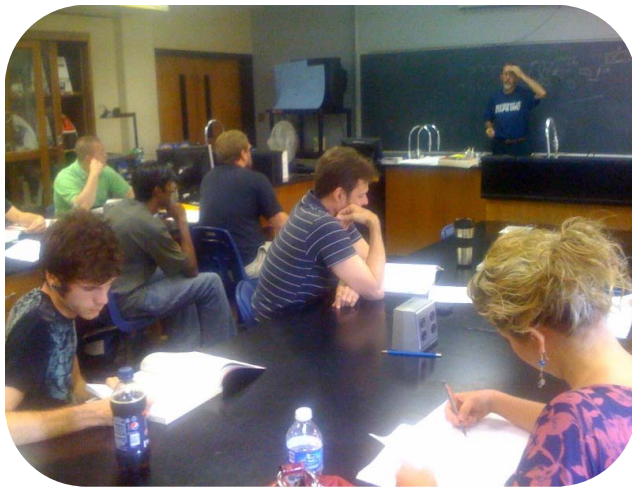


Third Year Medical Students at AHEC Northwest

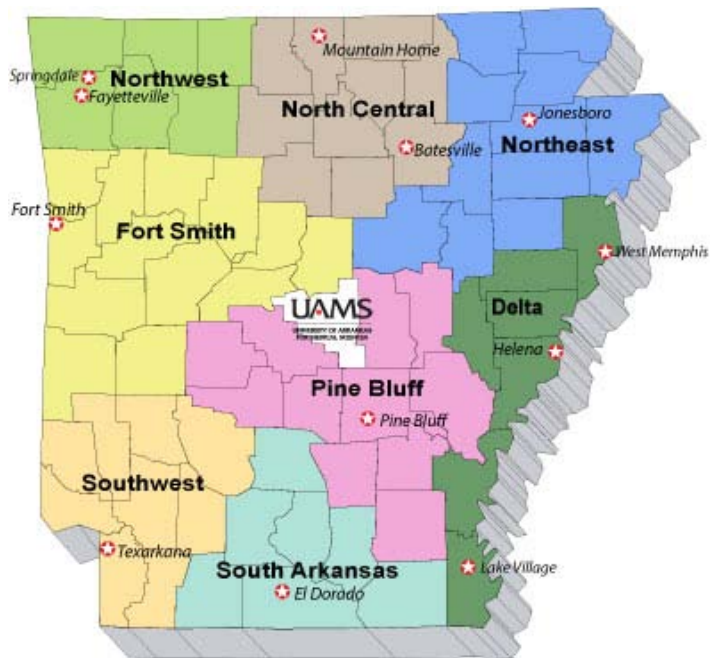
Eight teaching centers in El Dorado, Fayetteville/Springdale, Fort Smith, Helena-West Helena, Jonesboro, Pine Bluff, Texarkana and, Batesville/Mountain Home expose future health professionals to underserved communities and provide more varied hands-on experiences than they might receive in a traditional urban, academic environment.

UAMS Regional Programs, now comprised of the AHECs and the Center for Rural Health, serve as the primary educational outreach effort of UAMS and the principal means of decentralizing medical and other health professions education throughout the state.

What began with medical and residency training over 35 years ago now encompasses nursing, pharmacy, and allied health professions training as well as continuing professional and public education statewide. Each AHEC serves a multiple county region.



MCAT Prep at AHEC Northeast



"The AHEC program has been one of the best things that ever happened in the state of Arkansas."

John E. Miller, Former Arkansas Legislator

AHEC Mission and Approach



The AHEC Mission:





To improve the supply and distribution of health care professionals in Arkansas, with an emphasis on primary care, through community/academic educational partnerships, to increase quality health care for all Arkansans.

Quality training experiences in settings away from the academic medical center expose trainees to opportunities in underserved communities, helping encourage rural practice choices.

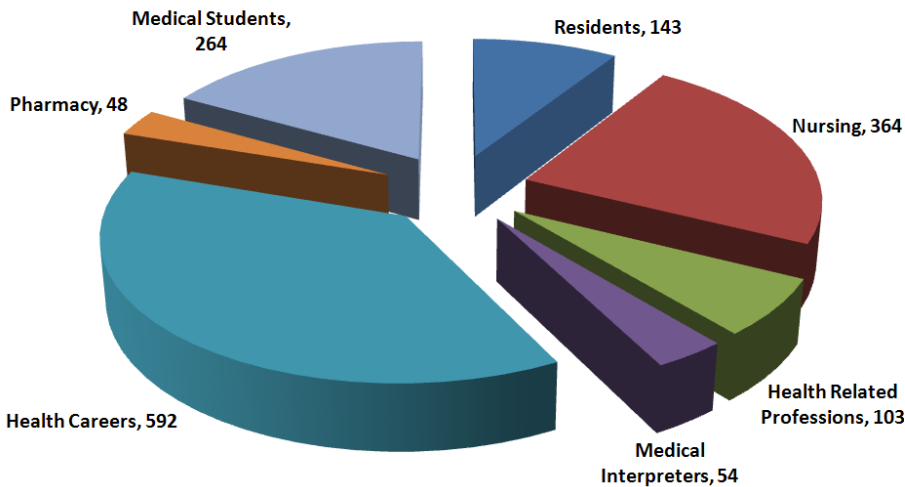
The teaching atmosphere, library services, and continuing education offerings enhance the rural professional environment, aid in provider retention, and ultimately strengthen the participating community health care systems.

2009-10 AHEC Trainee Overview

This year, the AHECs provided valuable training experiences for:








-  779 health professions students
-  143 medical residents
-  592 junior high, high school, and college students
-  54 medical interpreters

2009-10 Trainees



AHECs employ 658 people statewide, operating as important economic forces in their communities

Specific program goals:

-  Enhance the quality of health professions education by using the best academic resources available statewide
-  Retain Arkansas graduates of health professions schools within the state
-  Improve the supply and distribution of primary health care providers in Arkansas
-  Increase the number of individuals from underserved populations entering health careers
-  Supply professional support and continuing education for health care providers statewide
-  Provide quality health care services and educational programs to the public
-  Promote cooperation among providers, educational institutions, and health-related organizations

Center for Rural Health Grand Opening

Ann Bynum, Ed.D., Director

The new UAMS Center for Rural Health celebrated its grand opening in May 2010. The Center comes under the umbrella of UAMS Regional Programs, along with the AHEC Program. The new Center is home to a variety of rural programs and related initiatives that have grown from the solid 37-year foundations of the flagship Arkansas AHEC Program. The new Center encompasses the very successful Rural Hospital Program, Physician Recruitment and Medical Interpreting programs, as well as new programs such as the AHEC Practice Improvement program and Family Medicine Fellowship program.

The mission of the Center for Rural Health is to improve the health of Arkansas' rural communities and their residents by encouraging partnerships, identifying collaborative opportunities, leveraging available resources and addressing key rural health needs in the following areas:

- Rural Health Workforce
- Education and Training
- Practice Improvement and Faculty Development
- Rural Hospitals and Rural Health Systems
- Continuing Education for Rural Providers
- Rural Health Research and Policy Analysis
- Telehealth and Health Information Technology
- Rural Health Advocacy



Dr. Mengel and Dr. Bynum at Open House

“One of UAMS’ strengths is its unique ability to help rural communities provide health care to their residents. The Center for Rural Health is building on that foundation by encouraging partnerships, identifying collaborative opportunities and leveraging resources and knowledge inside and outside of UAMS to accomplish our outreach mission.”

UAMS Chancellor Dan Rahn, M.D.

The Center for Rural Health combines the academic and clinical resources found only at UAMS and extends these strengths to healthcare facilities and providers in rural Arkansas. The center will become a primary outreach arm and clearinghouse for rural health care improvement efforts statewide, working closely with public and private programs to improve the health of rural Arkansas. The center has a long and varied list of partners and prospective collaborators on research and other projects.

AHEC Northwest Celebrates New Home

UAMS Northwest hosted a March 30 open house for the new AHEC Northwest clinic in Fayetteville. The new clinic, in the UAMS Northwest building once home to Washington Regional Medical Center, is twice the size of the former location. The AHEC clinic is host to 27 UAMS family medicine residents, and also includes programs from the UAMS colleges of Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Related Professions. Six third-year UAMS medical students began classes at UAMS Northwest in July 2009 and will be joined by four more in 2010. The next phase of renovations is expected to be complete in late 2010, making space for future pharmacy students. Eventual enrollment at the Northwest Arkansas campus is expected to be between 250-300 with students in medical, pharmacy, nursing and allied health programs.



“This is a much larger and beautiful facility with state of the art equipment, which allows us to provide our patients the very best in medical care.”

AHEC Northwest Director Bob Gullett, M.D.

Fort Smith Named AHEC of the Year for 2009

On January 14, 2010 Dr. Mark Mengel presented AHEC Fort Smith with the first “Best AHEC” award for fiscal year 2009 at a ceremony hosted by AHEC administration. At the ceremony, Dr. Don Heard, Director of AHEC Fort Smith acknowledged the efforts of all members of the AHEC Fort Smith team. In presenting the award, Dr. Mengel acknowledged the important contributions AHEC Fort Smith has made to its community, Dr. Heard’s leadership, and their motto of “Why Just Achieve When You Can Over-Achieve?” as being keys to their success.



This award developed as a direct result of the AHEC annual review process which takes place in the fall of every year, in which a team from AHEC administration reviews all aspects of each AHEC, paying particular attention to accomplishment of mission and service to our customers. AHEC Fort Smith achieved best practice in 9 of our 30 areas, the most of any AHEC. Our hope is that as AHECs are identified with best practices in a specific operational area, they will be willing to share their practices with the other AHECs in order to improve overall AHEC performance statewide.

Special Acknowledgement



James L. “Bud” McFadin

After 34 years devoted to UAMS, 26 of which were with the AHEC and Regional Programs, James L. “Bud” McFadin retired in June 2010 from his positions as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Regional Programs and Associate Director for Administration of the AHEC Program. Bud has seen the AHEC Program develop from six centers with five Family Medicine Residency Programs to eight centers with six residency programs, and the Rural Hospital Program start with only a few employees and develop into the Center for Rural Health, now occupying its own state-of-the-art facility.

The statewide employee count has risen from under 200 to over 650, and with that increase came a proportionate increase in the responsibility Bud shouldered. Through all the changes and all the new programs, Bud was always the steady hand behind the scenes, advising on financial and human resource issues, budgeting for grant applications, and determining how each new program would be funded. All of the people working in UAMS Regional Programs will sorely miss Bud with his easy-going personality and sense of humor. Like his work with Regional Programs, Bud planned his retirement well, including the purchase of a lake house. We wish him a long and happy retirement and hope to visit often.

NEW! Division of Research and Practice Improvement

Robert D. Price, Ph.D., Director

Additional funding from the new tobacco tax has allowed us to expand several AHEC initiatives through creation of a Division of Research and Practice Improvement. The rapidly changing climate in primary care due to health care reform, evolving population demographics, and persistent health disparities has given us a mandate to implement the Patient-Centered Medical Home model in all AHEC clinics, to institute new faculty development and quality improvement programs, and to expand our community-based and translational research efforts. This division will administer the following initiatives:



Dr. Bob Price (l) and his team (clockwise) Tracy Crane, Marcia Byers, Michele Dover, Brandie Mikesell, Dr. Geoff Goldsmith, Katharine Toler

AHEC Research

The AHEC system has developed a five year plan for research development, with AHEC faculty identifying these areas of interest: Investigating Cadmium levels in Pediatric Patients; Development and Implementation of a Chronic Non Cancer Pain (CNCP) Policy Using EMR/Centricity; Health Navigator Training; Co-Management Protocol (Primary/Tertiary Care) for NICU Graduates and Telemedicine Project: Chronic Kidney Disease. Other studies being explored include children's safety and improving medication adherence. The AHEC research mission correlates closely with the recently funded UAMS Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) initiatives, and the AHEC system is an integral part of this \$20 million research endeavor. Dr. Price also directs the Community Engagement component of the UAMS CTSA project.

Intramural Grant Program

The AHEC Intramural Grant Program intends to award research grants annually to AHEC Faculty. Emphasis will be given to projects affecting health-care delivery that will improve the health status of Arkansas citizens and potentially lead to external funding as well as improve education through research. The Office of Research and Practice Improvement will discuss ideas for research projects and assist in the development of faculty grant submissions. Each grant application is reviewed by a faculty review panel. The goal of this research fund is to stimulate pilot projects to improve educational and clinical programs offered through the AHECs, which also might be replicated at other Centers to improve the AHEC System as a whole.

Practice Based Research Network

The Division of Research and Practice Improvement is working to revitalize the Practice Based Research Network, formerly known as OzarkNet, with the mission to improve patient care in primary care settings through practice based research. Network goals include translating clinical research into practice settings and assisting practice sites with clinical studies. Over the next few months, this network will be redeveloped and provide a resource for researchers statewide.

Quality Improvement

Approval has been given to purchase the Kryptiq CareManager Software for use in the 6 AHEC residency clinics in Arkansas. This software will assist all providers in improvement of care for the chronically ill, will assist AHEC faculty in teaching resident physicians to improve Chronic Disease management of patients, and will foster quality improvement research. Faculty will be better equipped to monitor resident performance and provide direct and timely feedback.

Fellowship

A two-year AHEC Academic Fellowship has been developed with the first two fellows starting in July. The program is designed for physicians, Ph.D.s, or Pharm. D. faculty who work at least part time. The fellowship is designed to offer opportunities to combine quality improvement and translational research with improved education skills and management. The schedule allows fellows to continue their regular clinical work at home and, through fellowship funding, support dedicated time to work 20% in the fellowship program.

Electronic Medical Records

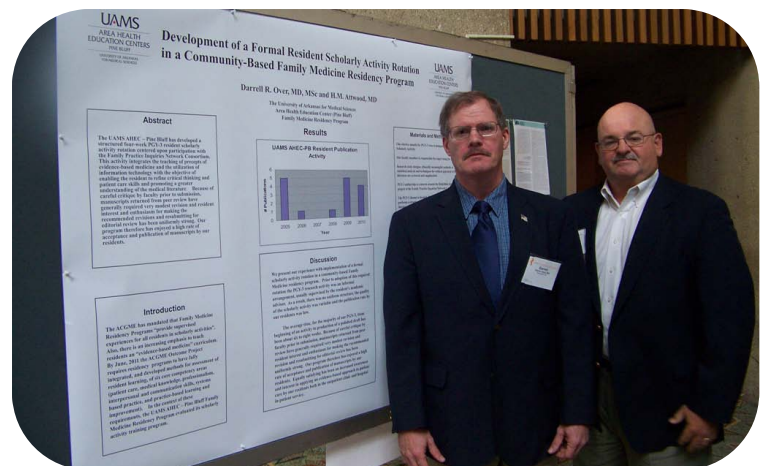
We are currently upgrading and improving all Electronic Medical Record (EMR) technology in the AHECs to provide a data infrastructure for daily patient care and translational research, to improve quality of care for patients with chronic illness, and to improve implementation of evidence-based preventive interventions. All AHECs using an EMR will be upgraded to a minimum of Centricity 9.0 by late summer 2010. These upgrades will include e-prescribing and other functions that will enhance patient care and better prepare AHEC residents for future practice.

Patient Centered Medical Home

In addition to providing upgrades and additions to our EMR, the Division is working to develop a program that facilitates implementation and evaluation of the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), as well as production of standard quality improvement reports, including quarterly clinical outcome reports for specific chronic disease and prevention outcomes. Division staff is working with AHEC Directors and individual AHEC PCMH Teams toward the completion of a five year plan to attain level three PCMH certification.

Meaningful Use

The Division is also working with the AHECs to integrate EMR Meaningful Use Requirements into daily practice. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will provide a reimbursement incentive for physician and hospital providers who are successful in becoming "meaningful users" of an electronic health record (EHR). These incentive payments begin in 2011 and gradually phase down. Starting in 2015, providers are expected to have adopted and be actively utilizing an EHR in compliance with the "meaningful use" definition.



Darrell Over, MD and Mark Attwood, MD from AHEC Pine Bluff

Honors and Awards

AHEC Excellence in Teaching Award



Mary S. Hartwig, PhD, APN was chosen as the recipient of the 2010 AHEC Excellence in Teaching Award from among the five members of the AHEC faculty who were nominated. The award, which recognizes an AHEC faculty member's outstanding contribution to education, was established in 2009. Dr. Hartwig who holds the rank of Associate Professor in the UAMS College of Nursing has been the AHEC Northeast Director of Nursing Education since 1997. As a member of the UAMS nursing faculty, she taught advanced physiology and pathophysiology to graduate nursing students for 10 years and was one of the earliest users of interactive video for distance education. In addition, Dr. Hartwig annually coordinates clinical rotations for over ninety Arkansas State University undergraduate nursing students. She also provides one-on-one education to medical students and family medicine residents on the care of diabetes, motivational interviewing, and a number of other topics. Students and residents who have been taught by Dr. Hartwig have noted that she is "always willing and ready to teach and to guide" and she consistently exhibits the qualities of an outstanding teacher.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Hartwig is also actively involved in academic scholarship. As the chair of the AHEC Northeast Research Committee, she has collaborated on a number of quality improvement projects involving other members of the AHEC Northeast faculty and residents resulting in numerous improvements in patient care practices. As a result, Dr. Hartwig has served as primary author on many publications and poster presentations. In addition to the AHEC award, Dr. Hartwig will also be recognized later in the year as a recipient of the Chancellor's Teaching Award.

AHEC Participation Award

Marcus Chu, MD is this year's winner of the Yvonne L. Lewis AHEC Participation Award. Mark, who matched with AHEC Northwest, has been active in many AHEC sponsored activities starting with participation in M*A*S*H while in high school in 1998 and continuing into medical school. Mark completed a preceptorship through Delta AHEC in 2007 and the family medicine junior clerkship at AHEC Northeast in 2009. During his senior year, he did both an acting internship and a primary care selective at AHEC Northwest and an elective at AHEC Fort Smith. Mark also served as one of the co-presidents of the Family Medicine Interest Group in 2009-2010.



Dr. Chu (right) accepts award from Dr. Gullet

Additional Honors

Jimmy Acklin, MD (Fort Smith) was chosen as one of the Best Family Doctors in America for the seventh time, and named by AY Magazine as one of the Best Family Physicians in Arkansas.

Richard Aclin, MD (Fort Smith) was named one of the Best Physicians in America for the 12th year, and included on the International List of Best Physicians for the first time.

Katherine Irish-Clardy, MD, and Bryan Clardy, MD (Fort Smith) were awarded the Degree of Fellow for the American Academy of Family Physicians, which recognizes family physicians who have distinguished themselves through service and ongoing professional development.

Richard Justiss, MD (Pine Bluff) was elected to the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians.

Larry Price, MD (Fort Smith) and **Herb Fendley, MD (Pine Bluff)** were honored by graduating medical students with Red Sash Awards.

Linda McGhee, MD (Fayetteville) was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe to the Arkansas Minority Health Commission; her appointment goes through January 2011. Dr. McGhee was also honored this year with a 35-year pin, as the longest tenured employee in the Arkansas AHEC System.

Dennis Moore, PharmD, Director of AHEC North Central, was installed in June as vice president of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association at the group's annual convention in Fort Smith

Janette Nesheiwat, MD (Fayetteville) a 2009 graduate of the UAMS AHEC-NW Family Medicine Residency Program was featured in the April 2010 issue of *Northwest Arkansas CitiScapes Metro Monthly Magazine*. The article describes her various awards for community service, her recent trip to Haiti to care for earthquake survivors, and her accomplishments as host of the Jones Television Network's show *Family Health Today*.

Eric Schneider, PharmD, BCPS (Fayetteville) has been promoted to Associate Dean of the College of Pharmacy at UAMS's Northwest Campus in Fayetteville

Danny Proffitt, MD (Fayetteville) was installed as the 63rd President of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

AHEC Northeast (Jonesboro) received the Health Equality award from Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care (AFMC), which recognizes physician offices for using an electronic health records system to identify disparities in quality and access to health care for underserved or vulnerable populations, and using that information to create effective interventions.



AHEC 20-Year Employees

We gratefully want to acknowledge the faithful dedication of the following faculty and staff who mark this year with 20 years in service to the UAMS AHEC Program.

AHEC Pine Bluff: Susie Aycock, Shirley Herron, Tina Oliver

AHEC Northeast: Debbie Harmon

AHEC Northwest: Ina Malone, Janice Huddleston

AHEC South Arkansas: Jo McElhiney

AHEC Southwest: Gloria Mugno, Deanna Sanders, Dianne Ketchum

Pre-Health Professions Recruitment

Increased appropriations from the new tobacco tax have allowed us to expand our Health Careers recruitment pipeline efforts by hiring Pre-Health Professional Recruiters in each AHEC. These Recruiters have been extremely busy, traveling their respective regions, expanding proven programs and launching new initiatives to reach more students across the state who will become Arkansas' health professionals of tomorrow. In their first year, the new Recruiters reached over 14,000 rural students statewide through more than 140 health careers presentations and events. New efforts are planned for the coming year, in addition to ongoing successful programs described below.

Community Health Applied in Medical Public Service (CHAMPS)

In 2009, 28 students participated in a CHAMPS program in one of 6 rural communities. This week-long program provides hands-on experiences in health careers, health education, and community service for students entering grades 8, 9, and 10. Over 54% of CHAMPS participants this year came from towns <15,000 population. CHAMPS is supported through AHEC funding. M*A*S*H and CHAMPS programs are often directed by medical students, who serve as role models and mentors for the younger students.



Medical Application of Science for Health (M*A*S*H)

Every summer, hundreds of high school students across Arkansas don surgical scrubs at AHECs and community hospitals and spend time with medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health professionals. In Summer 2009, 354 high school students in Arkansas participated in a M*A*S*H program.

During this two-week summer program for students entering their junior or senior year of high school, participants are certified in Basic First Aid, CPR, and learn the importance of healthy lifestyle habits. Students also learn to identify various health care disciplines, what they do, how they relate to one another, and how anatomy, biology, pharmacology, and physiology are employed in "real life" practice. M*A*S*H programs are sponsored by the Arkansas Medical MENTOR Partnership, a collaboration of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, UAMS Regional Programs, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Baptist Health Systems, and the Arkansas Department of Health Office of Oral Health.

"M*A*S*H is filled with fun and learning. It balances the two perfectly in order to help students learn as much as they can in a two week period. It has helped me so much in deciding what to do with the rest of my life."

M*A*S*H participant

Mentoring, Shadowing, and Pre-Med Support

Students from junior high through college age can arrange for individual mentoring/shadowing experiences through any of the AHECs. College/Pre-Med students can also receive valuable support applying for medical school, including mock interviews, advising, and Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) preparation. This year, 148 high school students and 62 college students participated in some aspect of these opportunities through the AHECs.



"I meant to email you and thank you for all your help more than a year ago with the MCAT. I actually applied to UAMS and I started last August! I remember how helpful taking those practice MCATs were as well as the practice interview. Thanks so very much!

Stacy Gibson, Medical Student

NEW! Arkansas Health Careers Website



We are proud to announce the new Arkansas Health Careers website at <http://arkansashealthcareers.com>. The site is a wealth of multimedia information about health careers, specifically targeting students in rural and underserved areas of Arkansas. We hope to maximize the number of students in primary grades through college that are informed about, choose to prepare for, and successfully enter health professions training programs. The website is geared toward these young students and utilizes the latest in Social Media and Web 2.0 technologies.

Viewers can find videos and articles detailing the experiences of medical professionals around the state. There is also a Health Careers Exploration Module in the Find Your Future section, by which

students can view detailed information about careers in healthcare. These profiles contain the amount of education required by each career, as well as personality traits well suited for and daily tasks required by that career. In the near future, we hope to develop a repository of resources for teachers around the state to use to inform their students of health careers as well as an interest profiler to supplement the Health Careers Explorer.

NEW! AHEC Outreach Initiatives

The Arkansas AHEC Program received new monies this year from the tobacco tax increase passed in 2009 by the Arkansas Legislature.

These monies have allowed us to expand our mission into community outreach by hiring new outreach directors at all of the AHECs. Arkansas continues to rank near the bottom nationally in overall health status, with chronic disease and mortality rates for diabetes, heart disease, cancer, stroke, respiratory disease, and injuries higher in rural areas than in other parts of the state and the nation. Each new outreach director is charged initially with developing or expanding four common programs: school health, diabetes education, prescription assistance, and community health screenings. These programs will focus on several key areas considered critical to improving both short- and long-term health outcomes of Arkansas: Teaching the importance of healthy lifestyles to children at a young age to prevent onset of unhealthy behaviors; earlier identification of many common health risks and problems through screenings; increased education and support for diabetic patients, and assistance with purchasing medications to help improve compliance and prevent many common chronic disease complications. Once these four programs are well established, each AHEC will be encouraged to expand into additional outreach initiatives targeting the specific health needs of their respective regions.



Medical Interpreting

This year, 54 Medical Interpreting students received training through the AHEC program. Training opportunities are publicized in local newspapers and on the Medical Interpretation Program (MITP) website at <http://www.uams.edu/RegionalPrograms/MedicalInterpreter>. A Language Skills test was developed and implemented as a mandatory requirement to evaluate language proficiency and medical terminology knowledge of MITP and job applicants.



Family Medicine Residency Programs

AHEC residencies help retain UAMS College of Medicine Graduates in Arkansas, ultimately improving the supply and distribution of family physicians throughout the state.

Arkansas AHECs offer **44 first-year residency positions**. Combined with 6 positions at the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine program in Little Rock, a total of 50 first-year slots are available statewide.

For the 2009-10 academic term, **45%** of the graduating medical class chose to pursue residency training in a primary care specialty, defined as Family Medicine, Pediatrics, General Internal Medicine, Med/Peds, and OB/Gyn. Of the 26 students who chose family medicine, 17 (65%) matched with AHEC residency programs in Arkansas.



In 2009-10, AHEC Residencies provided training for 143 Family Medicine residents, with 39 graduates completing a 3-year AHEC residency to become board eligible in Family Medicine. Of the 2010 AHEC Family Medicine Residency Graduates, 74% (29/39) remained in Arkansas to practice, and 38% (11/29) are practicing in small towns of <15,000 population.

Ten-Year Totals 2000 – 2010

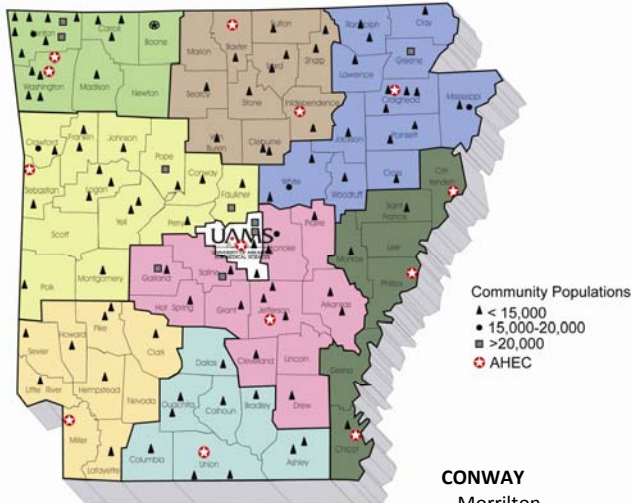
AHEC Family Medicine Residency Graduates:

70% (283/406) remained in Arkansas to practice

45% (128/283) chose to practice in small towns of <15,000



First Year Residents, AHEC Pine Bluff



The map at left shows locations of AHEC-trained family physicians across the state, and below is a list of counties and communities where they practice.

650 AHEC-trained family physicians currently practice in **12** Arkansas communities, including **67** of the state's **75** counties*

20 additional AHEC residency graduates also practice in the border town of Texarkana, TX

ARKANSAS

- * DeWitt
- Stuttgart

ASHLEY

- Crossett
- Hamburg

BAXTER

- Lake View
- Mountain Home

BENTON

- Bella Vista
- Bentonville
- Centerton
- Decatur
- Gentry
- Gravette
- Lowell
- Pea Ridge
- Rogers
- Siloam Springs

BOONE

- Harrison

BRADLEY

- Warren

CALHOUN

- Hampton

CARROLL

- Berryville
- Eureka Springs
- Holiday Island

CHICOT

- Eudora
- Lake Village

CLARK

- *Arkadelphia

CLAY

- * Piggott

CLEBURNE

- Greers Ferry
- Heber Springs

CLEVELAND

- * Rison

COLUMBIA

- * Magnolia

CONWAY

- Morrilton

CRAIGHEAD

- Bono
- Brookland
- Jonesboro

- * Lake City

- * Monette

CRAWFORD

- Alma
- Van Buren

CROSS

- Wynne

DALLAS

- * Fordyce

DREW

- * Monticello

FAULKNER

- Conway
- Greenbrier

FRANKLIN

- * Charleston
- Ozark

FULTON

- * Salem

GARLAND

- Hot Springs
- Hot Springs Village

GRANT

- * Sheridan

GREENE

- Paragould

HEMPSTEAD

- * Hope

HOT SPRING

- * Malvern

HOWARD

- Nashville

INDEPENDENCE

- Batesville
- Newark

IZARD

- * Calico Rock
- * Melbourne

JACKSON

- Newport

JEFFERSON

- * Altheimer
- Pine Bluff
- White Hall

- * Redfield

JOHNSON

- Clarksville

LAFAYETTE

- * Lewisville

LAWRENCE

- * Walnut Ridge

LITTLE RIVER

- Ashdown

LOGAN

- * Booneville
- * Paris
- * Ratcliff

LONOKE

- Cabot

MADISON

- * Huntsville

MILLER

- Texarkana

MISSISSIPPI

- Blytheville
- Manila

MONROE

- * Brinkley

MONTGOMERY

- * Mount Ida

OUACHITA

- Camden

PERRY

- * Perryville

PHILLIPS

- * Helena/West Helena

PIKE

- * Glenwood
- * Murfreesboro

POINSETT

- Harrisburg

- * Trumann

POLK

- Mena

POPE

- Atkins
- Russellville

PRAIRIE

- * Des Arc
- * Hazen

PULASKI

- * College Station

- Jacksonville

- Little Rock

- Maumelle

- North Little Rock

- Sherwood

RANDOLPH

- * Pocahontas

- * Warm Springs

SAINT FRANCIS

- Forrest City

SALINE

- Benton

- Bryant

SEARCY

- Marshall

SEBASTIAN

- Fort Smith
- Greenwood

SEVIER

- DeQueen

SHARP

- * Cherokee Village

STONE

- * Mountain View

UNION

- El Dorado

- Junction City

- Smackover

VAN BUREN

- * Clinton

WASHINGTON

- Farmington

- Fayetteville

- Johnson

- *Lincoln

- Prairie Grove

- Springdale

WHITE

- Bald Knob

- Beebe

- Searcy

WOODRUFF

- Augusta

YELL

- Danville

- Dardanelle

*Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and/or Community Health Center (CHC)

Rural Training Emphasis

All AHECs offer elective rotations at rural clinical sites to prepare residents for and encourage practice in rural and medically underserved areas. Medical Students who participate in the Rural Loan Scholarship program are required to perform a Family Medicine Preceptorship through an AHEC, and complete a portion of their Junior Clerkship in a rural community. They also complete at least one of their required senior rotations (Acting Internship or Primary Care Selective) at an AHEC. In the class of 2010, **10** students had Community Match Program/ Rural Loan and Scholarship Program commitments; **6** are entering Family Medicine residencies, and **5** of those are in AHECs.



AHEC-sponsored training took place in 46 counties / 61 different communities

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| <p>ARKANSAS
Stuttgart</p> <p>ASHLEY
Crossett</p> <p>BAXTER
Mountain Home</p> <p>BENTON
Bentonville
Lowell
Rogers</p> <p>BOONE
Harrison</p> <p>BRADLEY
Warren</p> | <p>CARROLL
Eureka Springs</p> <p>CHICOT
Lake Village</p> <p>CLARK
Arkadelphia</p> <p>CLEBURNE
Heber Springs</p> <p>COLUMBIA
* Magnolia</p> <p>CONWAY
Morrilton</p> <p>CRAIGHEAD
Jonesboro</p> | <p>CRAWFORD
Alma
Van Buren</p> <p>CRITTENDEN
West Memphis</p> <p>DESHA
*Dumas</p> <p>DREW
*Monticello</p> <p>FAULKNER
Conway</p> <p>GARLAND
Hot Springs</p> <p>GREENE
Paragould</p> | <p>HEMPSTEAD
* Hope</p> <p>HOWARD
Nashville</p> <p>INDEPENDENCE
Batesville</p> <p>IZARD
* Calico Rock</p> <p>JEFFERSON
Pine Bluff
White Hall</p> <p>JOHNSON
Clarksville</p> <p>LAWRENCE
* Walnut Ridge</p> <p>LONOKE
Cabot</p> <p>MADISON
* Huntsville</p> <p>MILLER
Texarkana</p> <p>NEVADA
* Prescott</p> | <p>OUACHITA
Camden</p> <p>PHILLIPS
* Helena/West Helena
* Marvell</p> <p>PIKE
* Glenwood
* Murfreesboro</p> <p>POLK
Mena</p> <p>POPE
Atkins
Russellville</p> <p>PULASKI
Little Rock</p> <p>SAINT FRANCIS
Forrest City</p> <p>SALINE
Benton
Bryant</p> <p>SEARCY
Marshall</p> | <p>SEBASTIAN
Fort Smith</p> <p>STONE
* Mountain View</p> <p>UNION
El Dorado
Smackover</p> <p>VAN BUREN
*Clinton</p> <p>WASHINGTON
Elkins
Farmington
Fayetteville
Johnson
*Lincoln
Springdale
Tontitown</p> <p>WHITE
Searcy</p> |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|



**Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and/or Community Health Center (CHC)*

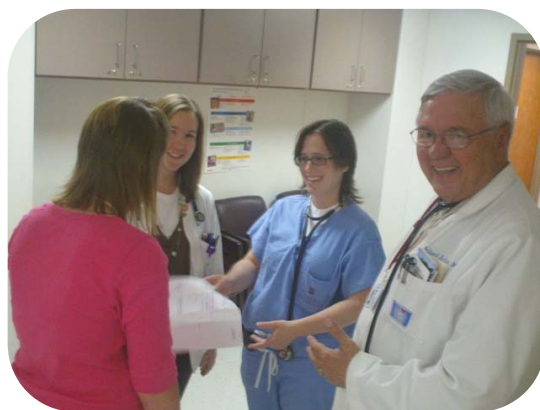
Medical Student Education

Family Medicine Preceptorships

During Summer 2009, **56 medical students** performed Family Medicine Preceptorships, involving 2-4 week elective opportunities for entering second- and third-year medical students to work with family physicians in communities across Arkansas. A total of **23 medical students** served as **Assistant Directors** for an AHEC-sponsored **M*A*S*H** or **CHAMPS** program.

Junior Clerkships in Family Medicine

In 2009-10, **83% (118/142)** of the junior class performed family medicine clerkships in the AHECs. This mandatory experience, at a time when students are beginning to make decisions regarding specialty and practice location, is the most effective recruitment tool to date for the AHECs. The JRMC Preceptorship in Pine Bluff hosted 5 students this year.



Senior Electives/Selectives

In 2009-2010, **47% (70/148)** of the senior class completed **99 different rotations in the AHECs for a total of 386 weeks of training**. The senior year of medical school allows students to design a program of study to supplement previous training and meet personal career goals.

The **Senior Selective in Primary Care** is a 4-week rotation required of all senior students. **Acting Internships** are 4-week required rotations that focus on inpatient clinical skills and instill confidence in preparation for the first year of residency. **Electives** in all primary care specialties and most medical sub-specialties can also be taken in the AHECs. This year, **11 out-of-state medical students** performed rotations at Arkansas AHECs.

Rural Medicine Student Leadership Association (RMSLA)

The UAMS Rural Medicine Student Leadership Association (RMSLA), the AHEC Program, and the Arkansas Farm Bureau sponsor the Arkansas MENTOR Awards presented annually at the Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair. Representatives from RMSLA serve as judges for the awards. Students must be from rural high schools to be eligible for the awards, which are aimed at projects that may improve the health and well-being of rural Arkansans. This year's 1st place Winner was "To Preserve or Not To Preserve: Phase V" by Bayley Shields of Alpena High School.



Ken Tillman Farm Bureau, Josh Smith, Hailey Small, Austin Plumlee judge science fair projects

"My month in Fayetteville was one of the best during my 3rd year. I was encouraged by the comfortable environment, attitude, and camaraderie displayed and produced by the interns, residents, and attendings... I was thoroughly pleased with the breadth of my experience...Thank you for making it such a great experience."

Ryan Dare, Medical Student

Pharmacy Education

During the 2009-10 academic year, AHEC clinical pharmacists served as preceptors for **48 traditional pharmacy students**, in addition to their significant involvement in the daily instruction of AHEC residents and medical students rotating through the AHEC clinics. AHEC pharmacists direct quality improvement projects in clinics, serve on the statewide EMR/Informatics committee, work on chronic disease state management, and participate in medication reconciliation projects. They are also integrally involved in anticoagulation clinics, and clinics for diabetes, asthma, HIV, and chronic pain patients.

Service to the UAMS College of Pharmacy includes coordinating and providing local continuing education programs, teaching didactic therapeutic courses at UAMS, and lecturing at regional district meetings. Presentations to local medical societies, grand rounds for regional hospitals, and curriculum development for pharmacy-based diabetes programs are also integral to providing timely drug information across each AHEC region. Statewide, AHEC faculty lectured at meetings for the Arkansas Pharmacists Association, the Association of Health-System Pharmacists, and the Academy of Consultant Pharmacists. National presentations included a poster presentation on original research at the AAFP/STFM Conference on Practice Improvement, drug educational programs for drug utilization conferences, and a new drug update for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

The role of technology within pharmacy practice and medical education continues to increase. Pharmacy faculty members in the AHECs continue to be busy learning about and educating other professionals on e-prescribing. Online courses are in progress, which will permit the delivery of distance education between campuses, and will also assist faculty with streamlining and standardizing existing courses.



Doshia Cummins, PharmD, and Mary Hartwig, PhD, APN at Merit Presentation

"I am a family doctor seeing a tremendous diversity of patients with complex medical problems. When I need accurate, objective, cutting-edge information on drug therapy, I am on the phone to Tom or Doshia (AHEC Northeast pharmacists). They enhance the quality of my practice with their insight and experience."

Darrell Ragland, MD

Nursing Education

In 2009-10, **364** nursing students from various educational institutions, ranging from the LPN to the master's level, participated in educational experiences at the AHECs.



The AHECs play an important role assisting nursing students in rural areas with academic advising, registration, computer and interactive video access, medical library access, preceptor assignments, and course assistance. Through UAMS College of Nursing faculty in the AHECs, rural nurses can earn credits toward the following UAMS degree programs:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN Completion, RN to Articulated BSN/MNSc, Off-campus BSN program at UACCH in Hope)
- Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner tracks, Nursing Administration or Nurse Educator)
- Master of Nursing Science (Bridge Process for RNs with BS degree in field other than nursing)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (Courses offered live on Little Rock campus or via Internet)

UAMS College of Nursing

In 2009-10, **60 students** were enrolled in the UAMS Nursing outreach programs in, El Dorado, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Helena, and Texarkana, a collaboration between these AHECs and the College of Nursing. Another 69 students were enrolled at the Off-campus BSN program based at UACCH in Hope.

RN to BSN (Baccalaureate Completion) and **Articulated BSN/MNSc** allow two pathways leading to completion of the BSN degree for Associate Degree or Diploma Registered Nurses. Programs are available through the AHECs via interactive video and the Internet. Upon completion of the BSN, students may apply to the MNSc program.

The Master of Nursing Science (MNSc) program prepares nurses for advanced nursing practice in the roles of clinician, administrator, and educator, as well as providing a foundation for doctoral study. Courses are offered through interactive video, by Internet, or on-site by AHEC faculty.

Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) training classes have been developed through AHEC North Central, in cooperation with White River Medical Center, with 33 students enrolled this year. This program will both meet an immediate healthcare workforce need and serve as an entry point into healthcare.

Other Nursing Programs

Nursing students from other institutions rotating through the AHECs included:

- ✚ **38** Nursing Assistants
- ✚ **23** Home Health Care
- ✚ **46** LPNs
- ✚ **10** RN (Diploma)
- ✚ **29** RN (ADN)
- ✚ **95** RN (BSN)
- ✚ **58** BSN Completion
- ✚ **1** MNSc/MSN
- ✚ **4** NP/APNs



Health Related Professions Education

AHECs offer accredited programs or clinical practicum in several health-related professions, jointly support other programs, and offer continuing education to area practitioners. AHEC faculty teach CPR, ACLS, PALS, and HeartSaver training. This year, **103 students** were trained through these programs.

Radiologic Technology

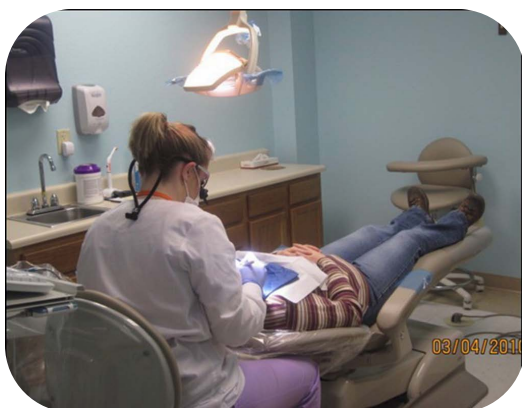
UAMS affiliated Radiologic Technology students may enter an AHEC program (**Fayetteville, Texarkana**) after acquiring college or university credits. It then takes 2 years to complete the professional curriculum, including clinical rotations through the AHECs, hospitals, and other facilities. Graduates earn an Associate of Science (AS) in Radiologic Technology, or a Bachelor of Science (BS), with extra hours. Those who pass certification of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists become Registered Technologists. For more information, see: <http://www.uams.edu/chrp/rad-tech>.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Diagnostic Medical Sonography classes for AS and BS degrees are offered (**Texarkana, Fayetteville**) via interactive video from UAMS with clinical rotations through local hospitals and clinics. Graduates are eligible to take the national certification examinations administered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Sonographers. For information, see: <http://www.uams.edu/chrp/dms>.

Health Information Management

Students can pursue an AS degree in Medical Records Technology from the UAMS Department of Health Information Management (**Texarkana, El Dorado**) by completing credit courses via compressed video, videotapes, and the Internet. An elective cancer registry track is also available. See www.uams.edu/chrp/him.



Respiratory Care

Students enter the UAMS affiliated Respiratory Care BS degree program in **Texarkana** after 2 years of prerequisites, and can take all 3 National Board for Respiratory Care exams prior to graduation, to become Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT). Interactive Video presentations and a 3-year BS option were offered to students wishing to enroll in professional coursework while completing prerequisites. A Respiratory Care AS degree is also offered at Batesville, with the professional component provided through a consortium agreement with ASU-Mountain Home. Other programs allow AS degree RRTs to earn a BS in Cardio-Respiratory Care, primarily through Internet course work. Neonatal Resuscitation (NRP) is also taught in Texarkana. See <http://www.uams.edu/chrp/res>.

Medical Technology

Through this program (**Fayetteville, Texarkana**) students can complete 2 years of college prerequisites, and enter UAMS for junior and senior courses. Upon completion of clinical internships at AHEC and hospital laboratories, graduates receive a BS degree. A Medical Technology fast track (12-month) accelerated program is also available for students with a bachelor's degree in a science related field; students graduate with a second bachelor's degree in Medical Technology. See <http://www.uams.edu/chrp/medtech>.

Nuclear Medicine

Individuals can apply to the UAMS Nuclear Medicine Imaging Science program and complete most clinical education at sites located in their respective AHEC areas (**Jonesboro, Fayetteville, and Texarkana**). The professional curriculum is provided by instructors at UAMS via the Internet. Upon successful completion of pre-professional and professional curricula, UAMS awards a BS degree in Nuclear Medicine Imaging Science, with graduates eligible to take the national board exam in Nuclear Medicine Technology. See http://www.uams.edu/chrp/nuc_med/default.asp.

Dental Hygiene

AHEC North Central, the UAMS College of Health Related Professions, ASU Mountain Home, and Mountain Home Christian Clinic have collaborated to implement a new Dental Hygiene Program in Mountain Home. This exemplifies AHEC at its best, combining the academic medical center, a community college, and a faith-based service agency to train health professionals while providing community service

Learning Resource Centers

AHEC Learning Resource Centers supply library resources to programs, institutions, and individuals throughout Arkansas, serving as regional medical and health professional information specialists. This year, AHEC Libraries served 60,623 patrons.

Close interaction with the UAMS Library greatly enhances AHEC resources and services. Most UAMS Library electronic full text resources can now be accessed off campus through the AHECs. The Librarians use a variety of methods for interlibrary requests. Requests can now move from library to desktop in hours or even minutes. Redesigned web pages and other marketing tools are improving visibility and promotion of AHEC library services.

Librarians teach group and one-on-one instruction in accessing the Internet, Pub Med and full text resources from the UAMS Library. AHEC Librarians continue to work with UAMS to promote DynaMed, which is an electronic point-of-care reference tool supporting evidence-based medicine that is updated daily for physicians and other health professionals. Several librarians facilitate distance learning classes by proctoring exams for UAMS students via Web-CT in nursing and health related professions programs.

The AHEC Northwest Library tripled its space from 1000 to 3000 square feet in its move to a new facility, which now includes a 20-person computer lab and a new 3-room student study area equipped with wi-fi throughout. Carroll Medical Library in El Dorado was awarded an Express Outreach Award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to fund their "Information at Your Fingertips" project.

AHEC Library Patrons 2009-10

24,057	Health Professionals
27,583	Students and Residents
8,983	Consumers
60,623	Total Patrons

Reference/Resources/Services

15,371	Information/Manual Requests
9,462	Electronic Searches
6,699	Books Circulated
7,288	Journals Circulated
5,009	Audiovisuals Circulated
5,411	Interlibrary Loans Filled
15,153	Articles Photocopied



Pictured

Top row: Cathy Privett – Delta AHEC

Second row from top, L-R: Karen Crosser – Jonesboro; Destiny Carter – Texarkana

Third row from top, L-R: Elva Conditt – Fayetteville; Vicki de Yampert – El Dorado

Bottom row, L-R: Grace Anderson – Ft. Smith; Julie Dobbins – Pine Bluff

Not Pictured: Jana Terry - El Dorado

Continuing Education



Keeping up with rapidly changing medical information, technology, trends, and procedures is a challenge for all health care professionals, but particularly for those practicing in rural areas. It is difficult, if not impossible, for many rural providers to attend distant educational programs that require travel and time away from the office. To address this need, the AHECs offer recurring continuing education for health professionals statewide, accessing a variety of interactive and online education programs available through UAMS and the Center for Rural Health.

Our numbers show a decrease from previous years due to a restructuring of certification, financial and reporting requirements. The AHECs have now transitioned from offering programs primarily through the UAMS CME office to becoming more of a conduit for CE offerings through the new Center for Rural Health.

Continuing Education 2009-10

Number of CE Programs	1,417
Statewide Program Attendance*	
Physicians/Dentists	15,295
Nurses	1,691
Advanced Practice Nurses/PAs	308
Pharmacists	533
Mental Health/Social Workers	315
Allied Health Professions	569
Other	976
Total	19,687

*Attendance includes some duplicate attendees



Public Education



Educating the people of Arkansas about healthy lifestyles is receiving increasing emphasis. Health promotion and disease prevention topics are offered by the AHECs throughout the year.

Data this year includes events and presentations conducted by the new AHEC Pre-health Professions Recruiters and the new AHEC Outreach Directors. This data is being reported under Consumer/Secondary Education for this year only as we transition their data into separate databases. Next year, Pre-health and Outreach data will be reported in their own categories.

Public Education 2009-10

Number of Programs	1,644
Number of Attendees	34,146

Public Service

AHEC faculty and residents are very active in their communities, serving on many national, state, and local advisory boards and committees. AHECs also provide a vast array of health care services and resources, some of which are listed below.

Physical exams and health services:

- Boy and Girl Scouts
- Church Health Clinics
- EPSDT/HIPPY
- Forensic Child Abuse/
Sexual Assault Exams
- Medical Mission Trips
- Nursing Homes
- Pre-school/ Immunization updates
- School Athletics
- Special Olympics
- Summer Camps
- Veterans CBOC

Specialty clinics:

- Asthma/COPD
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Diabetes
- GI/Colonoscopy/EGD
- HIV/AIDS
- High Risk Obstetrics
- Infectious Diseases
- Minor Surgery
- Telemed Pacemaker

Other clinics & counseling:

- Anticoagulation
- Childhood Obesity
- Colposcopy
- Developmentally Delayed
- Hyperlipidemia
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Prescription Assistance
- Prenatal Care
- Tobacco Cessation
- Tubal Ligation
- Vasectomies
- Weight Control

Support Groups:

- Alzheimer's
- Arthritis
- Breast Cancer
- Caregivers
- Diabetes
- Heart Club
- Huntington's Disease
- Lupus
- Sickle Cell Anemia

Health screenings:

- Asthma
- Blood Pressure/Sugar
- Breast/Cervical Cancer
- Cholesterol
- Colon-rectal Cancer
- Depression
- Hearing/Vision
- Lung Disease
- Prostate Cancer
- Scoliosis
- Skin Cancer

Community Education & Service:

- Aging Successfully
- Blood Drives
- Breast Self-Exam
- Career Days
- Child Safety/Abuse
- CLASSICS
- CPR Instruction
- Diabetes Management
- Drug/Alcohol Abuse
- Farm Safety

Go Red for Women

- Growth & Development
- Health Fairs
- Heart Health
- Herbal Products
- Hormone Replacement
- Hypertension/Stroke
- Komen Race for the Cure
- Medical Reserve Corps
- Migraine Headaches
- Nutrition & Fitness
- Osteoporosis
- Parenting
- Parkinson's Disease
- Pharmacy updates
- Poison Prevention
- Reach Out & Read
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Stress Management
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Tobacco Prevention



Clinic Patient Services 2009-10			
Clinic Visits	177,326	Hospital Admissions	10,955
New Patients	13,182	Hospital Visits	81,988
Patients/ Day	733	ER Visits	5,205
Babies Delivered	1,679	Nursing Home Visits	2,729

FATE

FATE (Fighting AIDS Through Education), a sophomore medical class community service project, is sponsored by AHEC and the UAMS College of Medicine. This year, 12 medical student FATE volunteers spoke to more than 700 students, teachers, and counselors in high schools across the state.

"I have learned a great deal about hypertension. Although I thought I knew enough to control my blood pressure, I learned something new at each session. I was encouraged to see my doctor even though I do not have blood pressure problems, but because of my weight and eating habits I could have problems if I don't change."

Public Education Class Attendee

Publications, Research & Presentations

Arkansas AHEC faculty and staff are known and respected nationally in many areas of expertise. A sampling of their publications and presentations from this year is listed here.

Publications

Anders ME, Evans DP (Texarkana) Comparison of PubMed and Google Scholar Literature Searches. *Respiratory Care*: May 2010; 55(5):578-583.

Cummins D, Mackey M, Baker E. (Jonesboro) Case Report: Recovery Time in a Case of Gemfibrozil and Simvastatin-Associated Rhabdomyolysis. *Southern Medical Journal*: Aug 2009, Vol 102(8), pp 858-860, doi: 10.1097/SMJ.0b013e3181ad6078

Cummins, D. (Jonesboro) Interpreting urine drug tests, *The Journal of the Arkansas Medical Society*, Dec 2009; 106(6): 161-162.

Hartwig M, Cummins D, Frank T., et al. (Jonesboro) Medication Reconciliation In Transitions: The MERIT Program. *The Arkansas Family Physician*, Jan 2010, Vol 13(1), pp 12-14.

Irwin C, Bynum A, Burke B, Hadley M, Vogel R, Evans P, Ragland D, Johnson T (Central) Access to Medical Care Among Children Participating in a School Telehealth Project in Rural Arkansas; Abstract published in the *Telemedicine and e-Health* journal, May/June, 2010.

Irwin C, Bynum A, Burke B, Hadley M, Vogel R, Evans P, Ragland D, Johnson T (Central) Impact of School Telehealth on Clinical Outcomes and Cost Savings Among Asthmatic and Diabetic Children in Arkansas, Abstract published in the *Telemedicine and e-Health* journal, May/June, 2010.

Payne E (Fort Smith) Osteoporosis Screening, Editorial. *Jrnl of the American Board of Family Medicine*, Vol 23(1), Jan 2010, p 132.

Spradlin T, Payne E, Clardy B, Vinson J. (Fort Smith) H1N1 Influenza in Pregnancy: Cause for Concern. Letter to the Editor, *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, January 2010; 115(1):185.

Wood R and Cummins D (Jonesboro). Simvastatin and fluvastatin associated nightmares, *Journal of Pharmacy Practice*, Aug 2009; 22: 421-425

The Family Physicians Inquiries Network (FPIN) is an effort to increase the number and improve the quality of the scholarly activities of Family Medicine faculty and residents. The following residents and faculty were published this year in the FPIN's *Evidence-Based Practice*:

Arshad M, Downs M. What are the best tests to diagnose dissecting thoracic aortic aneurysm? Vol. 12, No. 8, p. 1, Aug 2009.

Chadsey M, Over D. How well do BNP levels correspond to response of CHF to therapy? Dec 2009; 12(12):8-9.

Downs M, Wood J. Are there any proven methods to prevent recurrent infections in chronic indwelling catheters? Vol. 13, No. 1, Jan 2010.

Dukes-Casey J. and Over D. What are effective interventions for recurrent yeast vaginitis? *Evidence-Based Practice*. 2010;13(3):10-11.

Havard K, Garrett-Shaver M. What is the accuracy of home and drug store blood pressure machines? June 09.

Narciso P, Havard K. Are patients who take statins less likely to develop diabetes? Sept 09.

Narciso P, Norman A. Should patients with diverticulosis and otherwise normal colonoscopy be rescreened? July 09.

Over D. What is the best initial treatment for hypertension among persons of Hispanic ethnicity? *Evidence-Based Practice*. 2009;12 (9):5.

Over D. Management of acute pancreatitis. *Evidence-Based Practice*. 2009;12(9):1-3.

Over D and Dalby B. What is the most appropriate evaluation for gross hematuria in an adult? *Evidence-Based Practice*. 2010;13(3):1-2,16.

Scroggins B, Over D. For the initial management of dyspepsia, what strategy is best to prevent recurrent dyspepsia/gastritis? Dec 2009; 12(12):13.

Vinson E, Carroll P. What common problems affect the accuracy of long term glucose monitoring? Aug 09.

Pilot Research & Innovation Projects

The goal of the Innovation fund is to stimulate innovative ideas and pilot projects to improve educational and clinical programs offered through the AHECs, which also might be replicated at other Centers to improve the AHEC System as a whole. Below are projects that were funded this year.

Fort Smith – To test costs of Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) services delivery in a residency program.

North Central – Feasibility study for Family Medicine Residency Program at White County Medical Center.

North Central – To conduct health screenings using a computerized health assessment screening system.

Northeast – A Library Project to provide additional training and support to rural hospitals in the region.

Northeast, Pine Bluff, South Arkansas – Purchase of servers and other IT accessories.

Northeast – To see if MCAT prep course will increase the number of area students applying to medical school.

Northeast – Adoption and testing of an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) product for billing in the AHEC Network.

Northeast – Extension of MERIT (MEdication Reconciliation In Transitions) Program to AHEC patients at St Bernards.

South Arkansas – Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH).

South Arkansas – Improving Resident Coding/Online Sources by using the cohort design.

National Presentations

Clardy B, Gardner A (Fort Smith) Hyponatremia and Water Intoxication Associated with Forced Hydration Schedules.

Poster presentation. Health and Human Services (HHS) Integrated Training Summit, Las Vegas, NV, June 2010.

Clardy B, Mashek C, Whiteis D (Fort Smith) Multimodal Communications for Disaster Medical Response.

Poster presentation. Health and Human Services (HHS) Integrated Training Summit, Las Vegas, NV, June 2010.

Clardy B, Payne E, Spradlin T, Vinson J (Fort Smith) National Investigational IV Relenza for Novel 2009 H1N1 Influenza A in a Peripartum Female with ARDS Requiring Mechanical Ventilation. Health and Human Services (HHS) Integrated Training Summit, Las Vegas, NV, June 2010.

Frank T (Jonesboro) While You Were In School Some Other Stuff Happened: New Drugs 2009; Great Expectations Conference; ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting; American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists; Las Vegas, NV; Dec 6, 2009

Frank T (Jonesboro) Career Planning: Six Steps to Defy Gravity; Great Expectations Conference; ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting; American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists; Las Vegas, NV; Dec 6, 2009.

Frank T (Jonesboro) New Drugs 2010; American Drug Utilization Review Symposium; Scottsdale AZ; Feb 27, 2010.

Frank T (Jonesboro) New Drugs in Primary Care; Annual Meeting; American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists; Tampa, FL; June 8, 2010.

Hartwig M, Cummins D, Frank T, Cole R, Dickson S, Gillespie E, Mackey M, Stallings J, Holder K, Laffoon S, Speights S. (Jonesboro) Medication Reconciliation In Transitions: The MERIT Program. Presentation at Conference on Practice Improvement: Constructing the Medical Home, Nov 5-8, 2009, Kansas City, MO.

Hartwig M (Jonesboro) Diabetes: What's New With Type 2? Arkansas Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOF). Annual Spring Conference. 60-minute slide presentation and lecture for one CME contact hour. Tunica, MS, March 6, 2010.

Irwin C, Bynum A, Burke B, Hadley M, Vogel R, Evans P, Ragland D, Johnson T (Central) Access to Medical Care Among Children Participating in a School Telehealth Project in Rural Arkansas; Poster Presentation at American Telemedicine Assn, 15th Annual International Meeting, San Antonio, TX, May 17, 2010.

Irwin C, Bynum A, Burke B, Hadley M, Vogel R, Evans P, Ragland D, Johnson T (Central) Impact of School Telehealth on Clinical Outcomes and Cost Savings Among Asthmatic and Diabetic Children in Arkansas, Oral Presentation at the American Telemedicine Association (ATA), 15th Annual International Meeting, San Antonio, TX, May 18, 2010.

Martin K, Chadsey M, Heiles K, Frigon S, Bennett K (Pine Bluff) When Hoofbeats Are Zebra: Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease. Poster presentation. American Osteopathic Association/American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Scientific Conference, Baltimore, MD, March 18-21, 2009.

Over D, Attwood H. (Pine Bluff) Development of a Formal Resident Scholarly Activity Rotation in a Community-Based Family Medicine Residency Program. [Poster Presentation] 42nd Annual Workshop for Directors of Family Medicine Residencies. Kansas City, MO. June 6-8, 2010.

Petray E (Fort Smith), Taking Care of Ourselves by Taking Care of Others. National Association of Social Workers Conference. Fort Smith, AR; March 11, 2010.

Speights S (Jonesboro) Influenza. Arkansas Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOF). Annual Spring Conference. 60-minute slide presentation and lecture for one CME contact hour. Tunica, MS, March 6, 2010.

Speights S (Jonesboro) Acute Coronary Syndrome: Current Evidence and Practice. Arkansas Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOF). Annual Spring Conference. 60-minute slide presentation and lecture for one CME contact hour. Tunica, MS, March 6, 2010.

Spradlin T (Fort Smith) Teaching Coding to Residents, AAFP RPS Conference (Residency Program Solutions), Kansas City, MO, March 2010.

Vinson J, Payne E (Fort Smith) E-prescribing, AAFP RPS Conference (Residency Program Solutions), Kansas City, MO, March 2010.

AHEC Program Future Priorities

Work has already begun on the following priorities, and these areas will continue to be our focus over the next 3-5 years:

- Establish a Patient-Centered Medical Home in each AHEC center with a Family Medicine Residency Program, achieving Level 1 NCQA by 2014.
- Further develop the UAMS Center for Rural Health.
- Increase the number of medical students selecting Family Medicine and other primary care disciplines as a career choice upon graduation and choosing to select one of our Area Health Education Center Family Medicine Residency Programs for their post-graduate training.
- Establish new Family Medicine Residency Programs with rural hospitals not subject to the cap on number of residency slots funded by Medicare.
- Increase the number of translational research projects in which AHECs and our practice-based research network participate.



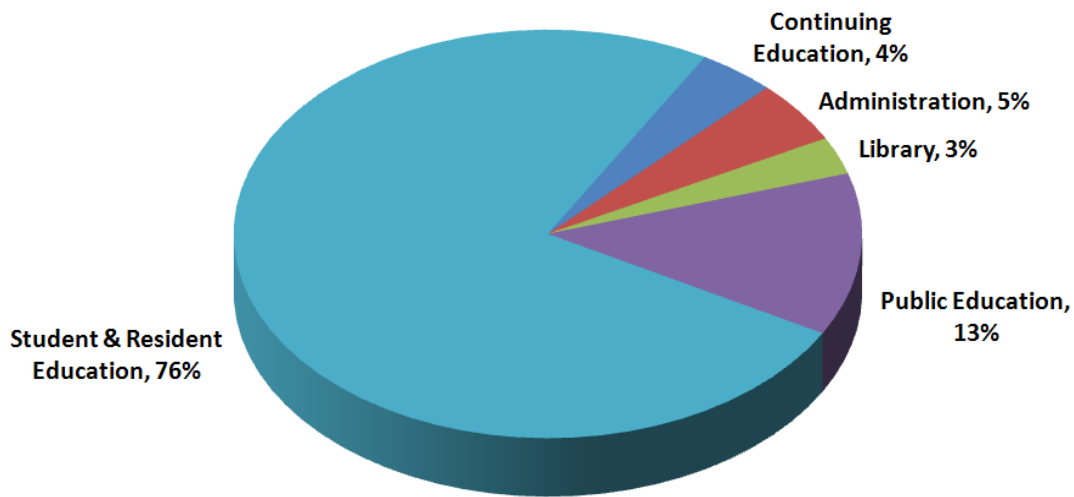
Financial Profile

The Arkansas 87th Legislative Session provided an additional \$3.4M this year. These funds were used to continue development of the North Central and Delta AHECs. Additionally, we were able to expand our efforts in all the regions for pre-health professions recruiting and community outreach, further develop the Patient-Centered Medical Home concept in our Family Medicine residencies, and establish a Center for Rural Health. Because of the economic circumstance with State funding, additional funds for FY 2011 are not anticipated.

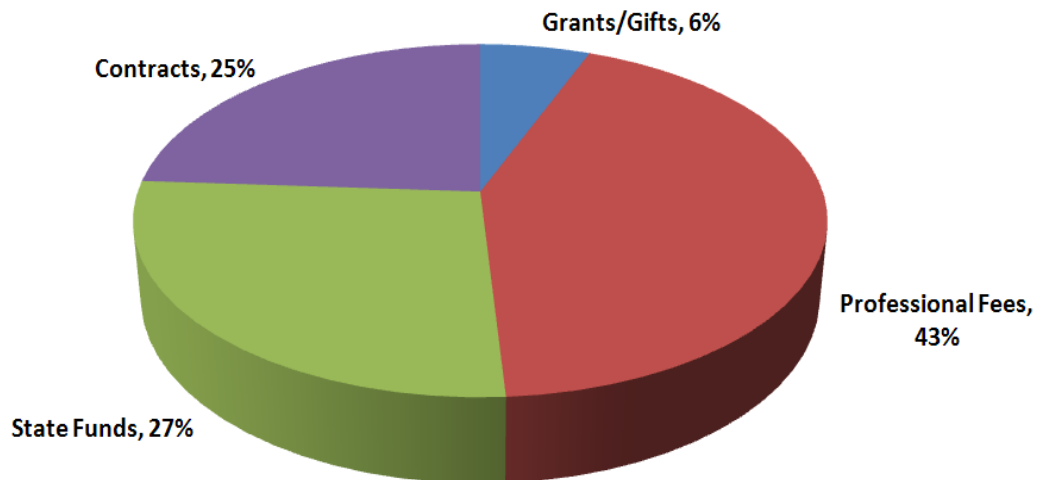
The three sources of program funding continues to be well balanced with the need to self-generate funds from medical or other educational services being more important than ever.

Expenditures for Student and Resident Education grew with the emphasis placed on pre-health recruiting, a faculty development program, and recognition of a statewide shortage of primary care providers and recruiting of the additional faculty necessary to address these issues.

Expenditures 2009-10



Funding Sources 2009-10



Delta AHEC

Becky G. Hall, EdD, Director



The Delta AHEC was awarded the contract for a new Veterans' Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Helena. In addition to primary care, nearly 400 enrolled veterans will receive free membership in the fitness center, education, and mental

health services. Innovative Readiness Training is being planned with the military and Delta Regional Authority that will conduct primary care clinics for the uninsured in Wynne, Marianna, Helena, McGehee, and Eudora.

This year, 1 RN in the RN to BSN Program, 4 graduate students in the Family Nurse Practitioner Specialty, and 1 in the Pediatric Nurse Specialty graduated from the UAMS College of Nursing program through the Delta AHEC. Two medical students completed senior selectives and 3 completed summer preceptorships. MASH was held in 4 sites for 40 students, and CHAMPS was held in Helena for 10 junior high students. The Delta AHEC recruiter presented health careers programs to 4200 7th-12 grade students and attended resource fairs at area colleges. A Doctors of Tomorrow (DOT) club was established at Delta AHEC South.

A "Get Fit in 2010" workshop taught students body systems and healthy lifestyles. The Library provided services to 2,585 patrons. The three Delta AHEC sites screened 380 people at health fairs. The Phillips County Coalition 4 Prevention (C4P) sponsored workshops to enhance 50 participant's ability to collect, analyze and evaluate data.

The Delta AHEC is implementing American Diabetes Association programs in all of the AHECs. The AHEC Diabetes Center in El Dorado has

become a satellite of the Delta AHEC

Diabetes Education Clinic and the other 6 AHECs will be added next year. Delta AHEC South provided diabetes screenings for 500 students in Dumas; those with abnormal glucose levels were sent for physician follow-up and monitoring by the school nurse.

The Prescription Assistance Program saved people \$ 1,266,819 and the Fitness Center had 39,258 encounters. Girlz Just Wanna Run finished in November with 55 girls attending a Healthy Harvest 5K. Fifty people joined a 'Biggest Loser' weight-loss program in Marvell. Lunch & Learn seminars were provided 70 residents from Lee, Phillips, and Saint Francis counties. Hypertension classes were provided for 33 participants in West Memphis. Delta AHEC educators taught, "What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick," to Head-Start parents, with training at 6 locations for 60 parents.

Free health screenings were provided for 330 school faculty. The Delta AHEC North Perinatal and Doula Services have 39 women enrolled. Delta AHEC, Helena Health Foundation and Arkansas Children's Hospital hold quarterly Baby Safety Showers; 250 have received car seats and safety items. A 10-week Healthy Habits program was presented to the Boys and Girls Club.

This year, 3,226 k-6 grade students, from 26 schools, participated in Kids for Health. A Church Crusade was co-sponsored in Dermott where 83 youth learned about gang violence and prevention, as well as a Youth Diversion Summit that proposed strategies to reverse the number of children entering the juvenile justice system, dropping out of school, having babies, and abusing drugs. Delta AHEC hosted a tour by 80 junior and senior high students and 11 faculty from Mississippi, and the Arkansas Legislature's Joint Committee on Public Health, Labor and Welfare visited the Delta AHEC for a two-day meeting.



AHEC Fort Smith

Don Heard, EdD, Director



This has been a year of changes and opportunities. Our sponsoring hospital, Sparks Regional Medical Center, was purchased by Health Management Associates (HMA). We look forward to working with the new Sparks/HMA to provide quality health care and enhance medical education in Western Arkansas.

Our new Pre-Health Recruiting program made health career presentations to over 4000 students at 16 schools in 6 counties. The new Community Outreach program provided health education at 5 local schools/organizations and participated in 8 health fairs. Our Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) quality improvement program works with AHEC staff to enhance care for patients and improve clinical processes. AHEC provided over 60,000 outpatient and inpatient exams and delivered approximately 500 babies.

This year, educational opportunities were provided for 41 medical students, 8 pharmacy students, 25 B.S.N. students, 4 graduate N.P. students, 29 A.D.N. students, 17 L.P.N. students, 7 C.N.A students, 7 Health Information Management students, 1 OB fellow, 5 shadowing/ mentoring students, and 7 medical interpreters. Dr. B.J. Landis also trained 3 sexual abuse nurse examiners this year.

In 2009-10, 20 family medicine residents trained at AHEC Fort Smith. We continue to enhance residency training efforts through team oriented care. Quality improvement is taking place in treating patients with chronic illnesses by emphasizing preventive care measures, insurance coding, and chart documentation. Seven faculty members became certified Advanced Life Support Obstetrics (ALSO) instructors; one completed



DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team) training, and one participated in faculty development at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA. AHEC Fort Smith is fully accredited, with its next accreditation site visit scheduled for 2011. The AHEC lab maintains certification by the Commission on Office Laboratory Accreditation (COLA) and is recognized as one of the best labs in the state.

Larry Price, MD was honored by senior medical students with the Red Sash Award. Richard Aclin, MD, was again named one of the Best Physicians in America and included on the International List of Best Physicians. Jimmy Acklin, MD was chosen as one of the Best Family Doctors in America for the seventh time and named by AY Magazine as one of the Best Family Physicians in Arkansas.

The AHEC FS library provided services for over 3,800 patrons this year. M*A*S*H continues to be popular, with programs at Sparks Hospital, Saint Edward Mercy Medical Center, and Summit Hospital, introducing 70 high school students to health careers. AHEC faculty, residents, and staff participated in community health fairs, career days, sports physicals, medical education for various organizations, and served on many local boards and committees. We are also participating in the National Cancer Institute Education Project, "Improving Colorectal Cancer Screening in Family Medicine Residencies."

As we look forward to the coming year, AHEC Fort Smith will investigate the feasibility of increasing the size our residency program, expanding nursing education, and updating our electronic medical record system, as we continue to serve our community and demonstrate quality in all areas

AHEC North Central

Dennis F. Moore, Pharm D, Director



North Central AHEC added several new programs this year: Dental Hygiene, Respiratory Therapy, Diabetes Education, Pre-Health Professions Recruitment, and Grant Writing. The UAMS Dental Hygiene Program's distance site is located in Mountain Home, with 5 students selected. This program is expected to

expand opportunities for community involvement as students see patients in dental clinics, conduct screenings, apply sealants, and participate in health fairs.

The respiratory care programs at UAMS –CHRP (Batesville) and ASUMH (Mtn Home) / CRCE affiliated with AHEC-NC in August 2009. This partnership allowed ASUMH to gain CoARC accreditation in October 2009. The ASUMH program graduated 5 students with an A.A.S. in Respiratory Therapy in December; the Batesville cohort graduated 3 in May with a B.S. in Cardio-Respiratory Care. All 8 graduates passed their RRT exams, and most are employed in the 10 county AHEC region. Through the Consortium for Respiratory Care Education, UAMS, AHEC, UACCB and a "Partners in Care Grant", the programs have added a significant amount of training equipment and ventilators. Full cohorts are expected to enroll in fall 2010 (10 at ASUMH; 6 at Batesville); 7 students (5 at ASUMH; 2 at Batesville) are progressing to their senior year. Plans are being made for an asthma day camp for elementary ages in summer 2011. Asthma presentations have been made at Batesville Junior High, with plans for school faculty presentations. Clinical preceptor workshops are being scheduled in Harrison, Mt. Home, Batesville and Jonesboro.

We are establishing a Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) program, with Rhonda Woods as coordinator, and becoming recognized by the

American Diabetes Association as a site of the Delta AHEC.

Our diabetes educator saw patients in DSME class; presented to diabetes support groups in Stone, Lawrence, Fulton and Sharp counties; participated in coalition meetings in Izard, Sharp and Stone counties; conducted screenings and served on the state Diabetes Advisory Council.

The addition of grant writer, Sally Fitts to our staff has opened new opportunities, including initiatives with Hometown Wellness Coalitions, the faith community, and Hispanic liaisons for health screenings, community gardens, obesity prevention, worksite wellness, and electronic medical records.

Our Department of Nursing Education had a productive year, with 5 graduate nursing students in the Fall, and currently includes 7 graduate and 8 RN to MNSc students. Pre-Health Professions Recruiter, Sai Kode, gives presentations at area middle schools, high schools and colleges, mentors students, and arranges shadowing opportunities with local physicians. Student contacts this year exceeded 3,000.

Our Medication Assistance Program begun in January 2009 has helped 360 people save \$369,000.00 in prescription costs. Regional collaboration continues with Hometown Wellness Coalitions and the 5-Star Diabetes Network, with 1,800 consumer education encounters.

Amanda Harvey, Health Educator, has created Twitter and Facebook accounts to disseminate health education. Amanda received national recognition for her public education campaign for National Public Health Week. She has educated many girls in area high schools regarding breast cancer prevention and detection. The Mountain Home AHEC-NC office assists the Izard County Community Clinic with patient education. We also assisted county and school flu clinics in the fall.

AHEC Northeast

Ron Cole, MBA, Director



To enhance patient satisfaction, privacy, service and comfort, AHEC Northeast has expanded its waiting and patient processing areas to improve registration, processing and flow. Additional space has been made available by St. Bernard's Medical Center as they continue to support AHEC Northeast and its mission.

The Medication Reconciliation in Transitions (MERIT) research project was a practice improvement initiative involving every department at AHEC Northeast, and recognized by the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care (AFMC) with a Health Equality Award. This award recognizes our physician offices for using an electronic health records system to identify disparities in quality and access to health care for underserved or vulnerable populations, and then using that information to create effective interventions. A poster presentation was delivered at the STFM meeting in Kansas City in November. The initial MERIT project has progressed into MERIT-2, which is currently being conducted with Dosha Cummins, PharmD as project leader. This project will expand practice improvement efforts in medication reconciliation to include our patients as they use the emergency department at St. Bernard's Medical Center.

Dr. Mary Hartwig was named this year's recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award. We look forward to Dr. Lesley McGrath joining us as full time faculty in August.

One of our third year residents conducted a community service project that provided extensive learning opportunities for 9 pre-med students from ASU. This program offered MCAT

preparation tips as well as physical assessment workshops and medical school application assistance. Other clinical rotations included: 24 Junior and 16 Senior UAMS medical students, 16 UAMS pharmacy students, 20 RN students from Black River Technical College, 88 RN (BSN) students from ASU, 1 nurse practitioner student from ASU, and 4 cytotechnology students from UAMS.

In April 2010, we hosted a research collaboration conference to identify common research areas among faculty at AHEC Northeast, ASU and UAMS. The meeting was well attended and the potential impact of UAMS' Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) was the primary focus of the discussion.

In 2009-10, AHEC Northeast provided 183 continuing education conferences for 3,145 attendees. Our Regional Medical Library is fuel that powers clinicians, educators and students of the northeastern Arkansas medical community. With the abundance of medical literature, research, clinical studies and data available, our role is becoming ever more important.

An innovation grant funded an MCAT Prep Course on ASU Jonesboro's campus following the spring semester's finals. The need and interest was greater than anticipated, with 19 participants enrolled.

Outreach and Prevention initiatives included Healthy Habits, a new 12-week wellness program piloted at AHEC Northeast in January, with participants meeting weekly and using The Mayo Clinic Diet and Healthy Lifestyles website. There was an average of 6.2 pounds lost; 14.3 reduction in total cholesterol, and 75% reduced their blood pressure. All participants increased their daily fruit/vegetable intake, exercise, and sense of wellbeing.



AHEC Northwest

Robert R. Gullett, Jr, MD, Director



This has been a momentous year for UAMS AHEC Northwest. We relocated to a beautiful state-of-the-art facility in the former Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville in December and celebrated an Open House in March. Our association with UAMS

Northwest continues to provide exciting partnership opportunities for educating family medicine residents and improving patient care.

Ten residents will complete training in June; eight will remain in Northwest Arkansas to practice.

Ten new interns will begin in July; half are UAMS graduates. Jonell Hudson, PharmD, returned to AHEC-NW as faculty, and Haley Vo, MD also joined us as new faculty. We provided clinical experiences for the first class of six third-year medical students on the UAMS-Northwest regional campus. Fourteen third-year medical students from UAMS participated in the Junior Clerkship; and 26 seniors completed senior electives/selectives at AHEC-NW.

Dr. Janette Nesheiwat, a 2009 graduate of our Residency Program was featured in the April issue of *Northwest Arkansas CitiScapes Metro Monthly Magazine*. Dr. Danny Proffitt, AHEC-NW Fayetteville Clinic Director, was installed as 63rd President of the Arkansas Chapter of American Academy of Family Physicians in August. Governor Mike Beebe appointed Dr. Linda McGhee to the Arkansas Minority Health Commission, and Eric Schneider, PharmD, BCPS, was promoted to Associate Dean of the College of Pharmacy at UAMS's Northwest Campus.

The AHEC-NW Medical Library tripled in size by relocating to its new space, now with three

separate student study areas and a computer lab that accommodates 20. All categories of library use have experienced a 10-20% increase this year, with students now having 24/7 access for the first time.

The Education Department offered continuing nursing education programs to 450 participants; 19 APNs attended the Annual APN Conference via interactive videoconference; three CME series were held with 1180 attendees. The first class under the new co-branded AHEC-NW/NWACC Medical Interpreter Certificate Program graduated in May 2010. Thirty-seven nursing students were enrolled in College of Nursing courses; 21 students in Radiologic Imaging Sciences; and 8 students in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Twenty high school students will participate in M*A*S*H 2010; 16 minority junior high students in CHAMPS. Ana Sanchez, MA, our new Pre-Health Professions Recruiter, made presentations on health careers at many area schools, reaching over 1000 students. Amy Witherow, MPH, CHES our new Community Health Outreach Coordinator, has initiated diabetes education and CPR classes, and participates in many partnerships, one of which is developing a mobile health clinic to deliver both dental and medical services.

AHEC-NW Harrison continues to provide education programs, health screenings and other services. The 10th Annual Nurse Educator's Institute was held in April with 482 attendees from 38 states and Canada; 400 students participated in workforce training; 1890 healthcare professionals received continuing education credits; 9000 seniors participated in programs and services; 205 clients saved \$750,000 through Prescription Drug Assistance; and more than 12,000 people participated in health and wellness classes and screenings.



AHEC Pine Bluff

Eddie Maples, RN, RRT, Director



UAMS AHEC Pine Bluff had a successful year. In 2009-10 we had 28 residents in training; 9 graduated and 8 will stay in Arkansas to practice. Of our 9 new PGY1s, 5 are UAMS graduates, 2 are DO residents, and 2 are internationals. We were

fortunate to recruit Dr. Matt Hulsey, and Drs. Jennifer Dukes Casey and Larisa Kachowski have agreed to remain as faculty beginning August 2010. Dr. Kachowski has been accepted into the new Faculty Development Fellowship at the UAMS Center for Rural Health.

Our VA Community Based Out-Patient Clinic "CBOC" moved to a new 5,200 square foot facility at the I-530 Medical Mall, with over 1500 veterans enrolled to date. In August 2009, Dr. Michael Kittell, a recent graduate of AHEC-PB, became the Pine Bluff CBOC physician.

In July 2009, AHEC-Pine Bluff joined the Family Practice Inquiries Network to participate in evidence based research. Under the guidance of Dr. Darrell Over, the program is a resounding success, with 16 articles published or in print to date. Dr. Over's poster to the Annual American Board of Family Medicine Program Directors was chosen for a formal presentation in Kansas City in June. This year, the Residency Program faculty started review and development of new curriculum standards with an online Challenger Program for Residencies "CPR," which allows faculty to develop online objectives, reading requirements and evaluations for all required rotation blocks.

In 2009-2010, 15 Senior Medical Students completed rotations at AHEC Pine Bluff. We hosted medical students from UAMS and five other Colleges of Medicine. During summer 2009, 17 medical students performed Rural

Preceptorships, and 2 junior students completed a two-week preceptorship at AHEC-Pine Bluff/Jefferson Regional Medical Center (JRMC).

This year, the Family Practice Clinic and Justiss-Lindsey clinic combined over 27,600 clinic encounters. Residents and faculty logged 16,500 inpatient encounters, 3,400 ER encounters, and 1010 skilled nursing facility encounters. These clinical activities generated more than \$5.7 million in charges and \$3.5 million in revenue collections, for a 62% collection ratio.

LaSonya Shelby became our Pre-Health Professions Recruiter in September 2009, and is making presentations in area schools and stimulating interest in health careers through various activities. She also organized an MCAT review and practice exam in April 2010.

AHEC Pine Bluff is an American Heart Association Community Training Center (AHA CTTC) and an Arkansas Nurses Association CEU Provider. In September 2009 Cindy Adams joined us to coordinate CE activities. We offered more than 40 courses with over 600 participants.

In 2009-10, AHEC Pine Bluff began regional outreach efforts through collaboration with the Delta AHEC, the Greater Delta Alliance for Health, and AHEC South Arkansas. In April 2010, Oluwakemi Talabi "Kemi" joined us as outreach coordinator. We participated in several health fairs, performing 600 health screenings. Currently, 40 patients are enrolled in the prescription assistance program. The AHEC Pine Bluff continues to meet the challenges of providing education and service for healthcare professionals and the citizens of southeast Arkansas, made possible only through collaborative efforts with key partners



AHEC South Arkansas

Michael Fitts, PsyD, Director



AHEC South Arkansas completed a busy year as the UAMS regional center in El Dorado. Dr. Martha Garrett-Shaver was named Residency Director. Five residents completed training in June 2010, with one graduate remaining as faculty and another opening private practice in our region. AHEC South Arkansas has 6 new residents joining the residency program in July 2010.

The AHEC Family Medicine Clinic and UAMS Faculty Clinic increased the number of patient encounters by 10%, and our VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic ended the year with 2,002 veterans enrolled. Our OB emphasis continued with the delivery of 123 babies. In addition, we hosted 12 junior medical students and 6 pharmacy students from UAMS. Our M*A*S*H Program was quite successful, and 12 students were exposed to a variety of healthcare careers. We are proud of Dr. Peter Carroll who was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2009.

Through the Peter J. Carroll, MD, Scholarship Fund, the opportunity for higher education was awarded to one of our employees.

The Carroll Medical Library continues to be a strong asset in South Arkansas, with library services provided to more than 2,034 patrons. Through the efforts of our Continuing and Professional Education Department, physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals earned 773 CME/CE hours. Our nursing education program has successfully graduated one student from the MNSc Program, who elected to remain at AHEC South Arkansas as an educator/clinician.



One additional student graduated from the BSN program.

Our community outreach efforts have increased significantly with the additions of a Pre-Health Recruiter and a Community Outreach Coordinator. Through these expanded programs, health education classes concerning nutrition, exercise, and lifestyles were offered to more than 500 students in public schools, and 1,007 students from junior high to college levels were exposed to health career opportunities. The Diabetes Center of South Arkansas achieved ADA certification this year and continues to offer educational classes in the region, including 88 hours of group session diabetes self-management counseling, and 50 hours of individual counseling, with a total of 277 attendees. Additionally, through the efforts of our Patient Center Medical Home Coordinator, we anticipate achieving the NCQA certification within the next year.

Our Region 11 Prevention Resource Center (PRC) interacted with 6 community coalitions monthly. In addition, the PRC averaged 4 speaking engagements monthly; encouraged tobacco prevention education and cessation along with the three funded tobacco coalitions in the region; provided substance abuse prevention training in various counties; and conducted Prevention Generalist training to nineteen participants.

We continue to upgrade our Centricity Practice Solution, with plans to refine our EHR, initiate care management protocols, provide quality training for residents, and achieve NCQA and meaningful user certification.

AHEC SA faculty and staff look forward to another year of providing services in our region

AHEC Southwest

Patrick Evans, MEd, RRT, RN, Director



UAMS AHEC Southwest has enjoyed an outstanding academic year. Graduates of the six allied health and two nursing programs housed on the campus combined to graduate 40 students. A phlebotomy training program began in Fall 2009 to meet the need for this entry level career with eight students graduating.

Seven Family Medicine residents completed residency training in June; a new group of eight residents will begin in July, boosting the total number of residents to 23. New faculty member, Matthew Nix, M.D. joined the program in June, and an additional faculty physician is being sought. The residency program remains in good standing, receiving a four-year accreditation renewal in late 2009. Wound Care, Clinical Pharmacology, Infectious Disease, and Neonatology were added to the curriculum. A third year rotation focusing on hospitalist training will be available in 2011.

UAMS AHEC-SW has increased capacity to meet patient care demand in our Family Medicine Clinic, the Texarkana Community Clinic and the All for Kids pediatric clinic. With the purchase of Docutrak document management system, paper charts have been scanned into the EMR, freeing much needed space in all clinical areas. The Texarkana Community Clinic received a grant from the CHRISTUS Fund to support additional personnel to help meet the needs of the medically vulnerable in the community. A social worker and nurse have been added to the clinic staff, and a family nurse practitioner is being sought.

Lake Country AHEC in Tyler, Texas, approached us to partner in a HRSA grant to train Community Health Workers. As a partner, AHEC Southwest provides students with a site to receive training and clinical experience. Graduates will be qualified to sit for the Texas Community Health Worker certification exam. A benefit of this partnership is that AHEC Southwest will be allowed to provide Community Health Worker training on site and at other AHEC locations in Arkansas in the future using the curriculum developed for the grant.

The Community Outreach & Education Department added two new staff members to enhance current programs, including health careers recruiting and Kids for Health. The diabetes education program moved closer to becoming an American Diabetes Association recognized program. The department received funding from the Foundation for the MidSouth to help sustain the Minority Care Clinic in DeQueen, AR.

The Southwest Cancer Registry accessioned 1225 new cases in 2009 for a total of 23,307 patients since 1989. CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System and Wadley Regional Medical Center have a follow up rate of 93%. Cancer registry staff are involved with provider education and updating manuals used by area cancer treatment centers to comply with new standards.

The Medical Library filled over 6000 requests for materials and information. A new interactive video unit seats 10 in the library. The Reach Out and Read program distributed 2,000 books and coordinated volunteers to read to children in the waiting areas.



Key Participants

We are extremely grateful for the leadership of the Regional Programs Advisory Council, our AHEC directors, faculty, and hard working employees, the dedication of our volunteer faculty, the support of affiliated hospitals and other community partners, and the commitment to educational outreach of the various UAMS Colleges.



Advisory Council

Internal and external advisory groups consult on various aspects of Regional Programs planning and implementation from a statewide perspective (see page 36).

UAMS

Educational programs conducted at AHECs are approved by the appropriate colleges at UAMS and coordinated through a central office on the UAMS campus. AHEC faculty are involved in the medical school admissions process, teach classes on campus, and participate in medical student interviews.



AHEC-Based UAMS Faculty

The AHEC Directors serve as regional health care leaders and are responsible for administering AHEC programs in their respective areas. Multi-disciplinary teams of physician, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health professionals oversee and participate in clinical training, including 105 salaried and 420 volunteer faculty.

Regional Partners

Each AHEC works closely with Community and Migrant Health Centers, public health clinics, mental health agencies, and other local health care providers and facilities to promote cooperative solutions to local health problems. We are indebted to the Arkansas Farm Bureau, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Baptist Health Systems, and the Office of Oral Health of the Arkansas Department of Health for their ongoing support of our M*A*S*H programs, in collaboration with the AHEC and Rural Hospital Programs.

Other important partnerships with the UAMS Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging and the Veterans Administration are meeting regional needs of the State's elderly and our veterans.

Other Schools and Universities

AHEC collaborates with many schools, community colleges, vo-tech schools, and universities across Arkansas to provide health professions education specific to regional needs.



Affiliated Community Hospitals

The AHECs hold formal agreements with the community hospitals listed below as host institutions and training facilities. We extend our deep appreciation to the hospital affiliates, which contribute their facilities, funds, and staff in support of AHEC training programs.

Delta AHEC Teaching Hospitals:

Crittenden Memorial Hospital

Helena Regional Medical Center

Chicot Memorial Hospital

AHEC Fort Smith Teaching Hospitals:

Sparks Regional Medical Center

AHEC North Central Teaching Hospitals:

White River Medical Center

Baxter Regional Medical Center

AHEC Northeast Teaching Hospitals:

St. Bernards Regional Medical Center

NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital

AHEC Northwest Teaching Hospitals:

Washington Regional Medical Center

Fayetteville City Hospital

Northwest Medical Center –Springdale

Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks

Willow Creek Women’s Hospital

AHEC Pine Bluff Teaching Hospital:

Jefferson Regional Medical Center

AHEC South Arkansas Teaching Hospital:

Medical Center of South Arkansas

AHEC Southwest Teaching Hospitals:

CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System

CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital

Wadley Regional Medical Center



UAMS Regional Programs Advisory Council



The Regional Programs Advisory Council consults on various aspects of planning and implementation for the AHEC Program from a statewide perspective. The Council is comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair of the advisory councils of each of the eight AHECs and several partner members representing statewide organizations that support and work with Regional Programs to achieve our statewide mission. We are deeply indebted to these capable advisors.

Delta AHEC Advisory Board

P. Vasudevan, MD, Chair

Kevin Smith, Vice Chair

AHEC Fort Smith Advisory Board

Buddy McMahon, Chair

Larry Bates, Vice Chair

AHEC Northeast Advisory Board

Susan Hanrahan, PhD, Chair

Mark Brown, MD

AHEC North Central Advisory Board

Gary Bebow, Co-Chair

Ed Coulter, PhD, Co-Chair

AHEC Northwest Advisory Board

Fred Vorsanger, Chair

Curtis Shipley, Vice Chair

AHEC Pine Bluff Advisory Board

John Lytle, MD, Chair

Jess Walt, Vice Chair

AHEC South Arkansas Advisory Board

Ed. Henley, PhD, Chair

Peter Carroll, MD

AHEC Southwest

Jon Beck

Rural Hospital Program Representatives

Kirk Reamey, CEO, Ozark Health Medical Center,

Clinton, AR

Partner Representatives

Ken Tillman, Rural Health Director,

Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation

Pat Torvestad, Vice Chancellor

Communications and Marketing UAMS

Pat Anderson, Senior Vice President

Simmons First National Bank

Tom Butler, Vice Chancellor

Governmental Affairs and Administration UAMS

Ty Borders, PhD, Associate Professor

UAMS College of Public Health

Kevin Ryan, JD, MA

Executive Associate Director ACHI

Butch Calhoun, Director

Arkansas Department of Rural Services

Richard A. Pierson, Ex. Director

UAMS Medical Center and

Vice Chancellor, Clinical Programs UAMS

Jennifer Dilliha, MD, Director

Center for Health Advancement

Arkansas Dept. of Health

Tom Bruce, MD

Adam Arroyos, Corporate Affairs Director

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Angela Richmond, Pres. and CEO

Community Medical Center of IZARD County

Katie Brandon, RN, BSN, MHA, NE-BC

Vice President, Patient Care Services

Arkansas Children's Hospital

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Bernadeta Kreft, Business Officer
Adrienne Goins, Administrative Assistant
Robert Price, PhD, Associate Director for Research and Practice Improvement
Holly Eaton, Executive Assistant
Mark Mengel, MD, MPH, Executive Director
Sterling Moore, MBA, Associate Director for Administration

Front Row, L-R:

Robin Howell, Project Manager
Angelina Levitskaya, Director, Medical Interpreter Training Program
Ann Bynum, EdD, Associate Director for Program Development
Jimie Jarry, Research Assistant
Vicky Montague, Database Manager

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AHEC Pine Bluff

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