659,292 Participants

Enhancing access to quality healthcare, particularly primary and preventive care, by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals through community/academic educational partnerships.

AHEC Scholars a longitudinal program designed to prepare future health professionals’ leadership skills within a rapidly changing healthcare system. Since 2019, AHECs have asked Scholars about key learning outcomes that are crucial for future practice working with medically underserved and rural populations. Selected results from 2022 are provided below.

8,362 Scholars in the 2022 interprofessional cohort:
- 2,198 medical students
- 186 dental students
- 527 pharmacy students
- 1,815 APN, RN, LPN, and CNA nursing students
- 314 behavioral health students
- 512 physician assistant students
- 298 rehabilitation students
- 407 public and community health students
- 2,105 other disciplines

Pipeline programs expose students to health careers and develop intent to pursue post-secondary education in primary healthcare professions.

Clinical training improves readiness, willingness, and ability of health professions trainees to serve in primary care, rural, and underserved community settings.

Facilitated 25,385 rotations

Continuing education providing health professionals with access to resources to improve the quality of care for medically underserved communities and health disparities populations.

377,184 continuing education participants

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In their words, the impact of participating in the AHEC Scholars Program on future health professionals:

**MT Scholar:** "This program really sheds light on portions of healthcare that was not available to me in my traditional nursing program, especially when focusing on underserved/rural populations. I have learned much about local native tribes and reservations which I have enjoyed immensely, and I know will have an impact on my future healthcare career."

**OH Scholar:** "AHEC has afforded me the opportunity to truly experience the difference that healthcare professionals in a community can make towards patients life. Through listening to all patients questions, addressing concerns, and helping prevent further complications, we can truly improve the EQUITY of healthcare in our community, both local and domestically. I have been so fortunate to have been a part of this program the last 2 years!"

**WV Scholar:** "This program provided opportunities that will help me give back to the community that raised me and taught me the core values that I instill into my practices today."

**AZ Scholar:** "AHEC Scholars reinforced my desire to work with underserved populations. I am now working as a NP in a free clinic that serves only uninsured patients."

**MO Scholar:** "I started [the journey towards becoming a physician] because I came from a lack of resources myself... I applied to the Scholars program because this will allow me to educate myself on other aspects of patients' lives that are often overlooked but significantly alter their health and the care they receive. My goal as a physician is to provide care to those underserved patients and give back to the community that got me here."

**GA Scholar:** "It was such an honor to be given the opportunity to be an AHEC Scholar. As a person who wants to practice medicine in a rural setting, this program was especially valuable in helping me prepare for my career... It was easy to see that throughout the whole program, the focus was to create good, patient-centered care in a collaborative learning environment."