Minnesota AHEC:
Supporting healthy communities through education and service

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Agenda

- Minnesota AHEC: brief description
- A shared philosophy
- Health professions workforce shortages
- How AHEC works in the community
A growing statewide network of academic and community partners committed to meeting the healthcare workforce needs of greater Minnesota
Minnesota AHEC: Brief Description

- Funded Sept. 2002-Aug. 2005
- $1.1 million federal grant with state matching funds support through tobacco endowment and community support
- One of a family of HRSA grants
- 75% of grant funds are directed to communities through regionally-based partnerships
- Funded through Medical Schools or Academic Health Centers
- Part of Greater Minnesota Strategy
A Shared Philosophy

- Developed two regional AHECs using philosophy of shared risks, shared resources and shared benefits

- Host communities selected to provide leadership for regional development

- Regional centers developing as non-profit corporations with community-based board of directors
University of Minnesota Academic Health Center

- School of Dentistry
- Medical School, Twin Cities
- School of Medicine, Duluth
- School of Nursing (Twin Cities and Rochester)
- College of Pharmacy (Twin Cities and Duluth)
- School of Public Health
- College of Veterinary Medicine
- Allied Health Programs (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Mortuary Science, Medical Technology, Genetic Counseling, Rehabilitation Counseling)
- Centers and Institutes (Bioethics, Spirituality and Healing)
Minnesota AHEC
Area Health Education Center

- Rural Physician Associate Program
- MnCare Rotations
- Center for American Indian and Minority Health
- Duluth School of Medicine
- College of Pharmacy – Duluth Expansion
- Minnesota Area Geriatric Education Centers
- Center for Public Health Education and Outreach
- Veterinary Medicine Preceptorships
- Hibbing Dental Clinic and extramural activities
- School of Nursing – Rochester Expansion

- Quentin Burdick Rural Interdisciplinary Training Grant
- Rural Observational Experience
- Duluth Preceptorships
- Fairview – University Telemedicine Network
- MD, MPH dual degree with University of North Dakota
- Cooperative Extension
- Agricultural Outreach Centers
- Woodland Wisdom
- Minnesota Rural Health School
- Minnesota Collaborative Rural Nurse Practitioner Program

University of Minnesota
Health Professions Workforce Shortages

Dental

Primary Care

Mental Health

Medically Underserved
• Approximately 60 percent of current dentists may retire in the next 15-20 years, based on full retirement age between 65-67.
  Dentist Workforce Profile, February 2002. Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, Minnesota Department of Health.

• Twin Cities metropolitan area imports 57 percent of its RNs from other areas.
  – 26 percent from other areas of Minnesota
  – 31 percent from outside the state

• In population to provider terms, the ratio of physicians to the population is much lower in rural areas – about 110 physicians for every 100,000 rural Minnesotans compared to roughly 300 physicians for every 100,000 urban Minnesotans.
  Physician Workforce Profile, February 2002. Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, Minnesota Department of Health.

• There is an estimated 259 pharmacist vacancies in the state while the average age of a Minnesota pharmacist is 45 years old.
Healthcare as Economic Driver in Communities

“It’s why the public has a stake in the AHEC even though most aren’t directly involved. Maybe they won’t notice anything today, but we’re planning ahead for ten years from now.”

Kathryn Nelson, M.D., Family Physician, Willmar, MN
The Role of Regional AHECs

“When you see one AHEC, you’ve seen one AHEC.”
Minnesota AHEC Objectives

- Nurturing an interest in health careers among youth and support students with an interest in rural health
- Building a community-based infrastructure to support disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and community-based health professions experiential education rotations
- Supporting health professionals at the community level through continuing education, library resources and professional development activities
- Listening to communities to identify and address unique community health and health workforce needs
Northeast Minnesota AHEC has been involved in:

• Setting regional board priorities and determining needs
• Looking for partnerships with other academic institutions in the region
• Working with health professions schools to support rotation sites and identify community resources
• Making sure community health professionals have information to support educational rotations
• Identifying local housing for students
• Serving as a contact for locating resources in the University
• Providing stipends to offset living expenses for students
• Producing video for web casting to showcase communities
• Working to understand how preceptors can best be supported
• Providing information regarding scholarship and loan repayment opportunities
• Working to keep our graduates in Minnesota by promoting local practice opportunities
Creating a Community Presence on Campus

- Community Statistics and Information
  - Around Town
  - Demographics and Statistics
  - Training Opportunities
  - Photo Albums
- Community Videos
  - Health care and community leaders
  - Scenes from the community
  - Comments from students
  - Unique characteristics of the community
Recruitment of health professionals is key economic development issue for communities.

Financial burden of recruitment is significant; innovative strategies are necessary.

Community videos are efficient way to address these concerns by:
- Raising student awareness about communities
- Increasing student presence in communities
- Reaching health professionals seeking placement in creative ways

http://www.mnahec.umn.edu/northeast/
What’s Next for AHEC

- Community interest in expanding the AHEC network across Minnesota
- Exploring the development of regional AHECs in Northwest, Central Minnesota as well as Twin Cities
- 16 community visits around Minnesota will inform early planning and development
To learn more about the AHEC development process in Minnesota check out the article, Creating New AHEC Partnerships: The Benefits of Community Engagement (p4), featured in the Spring 2004 edition of The National AHEC Bulletin.
For More Information

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