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Message from the Executive Director

During any long-term change process, the worst part is the middle in which you can’t see the ending and are mired in the details of change. Such is the case with us - the glow of receiving new grants has worn off and we are in the midst of “the grind” of actually doing the work. While it is going well and we are on track to accomplish our goals, most of our clinical processes are currently undergoing revision. Some accomplishments over the past year include:

- All of our AHEC Family Medicine Centers are on the road to becoming Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) models of care. We have implemented two disease registry modules (diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease), a patient portal, and hired personnel to handle care coordination. If selected to participate in the new Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative (CPCI), we will finally be reimbursed for PCMH functions.
- Our Family Medicine Residency Program (FMRP) expansion continues. We accepted 49 new PGY-1 residents in our second year of the expansion. AHEC-West FMRP was awarded a teaching health center grant that will allow them to expand by 2 additional slots next year.
- AHEC-West completed training from the Rule 4 Consultation Group on “ideal patient design” and process improvement. This approach to change promises to reduce waste and yield better outcomes by involving front line employees in the process. AHEC-Southwest has begun training and AHEC-Northwest will follow in the fall. The other AHECs will be trained by our own personnel, who are being trained as trainers.
- Faculty from the new Physician’s Assistant (PA) Program in the UAMS College of Health Professions toured the AHEC Network, and Dr. Trish Kelly is looking forward to working with us starting in 2014.
- We have opened discussions with the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program in the UAMS College of Public Health about their students using the AHEC Network for preceptorships and capstone projects.
- Kristie Hadden, PhD, the Center for Rural Health’s Director of Health Literacy, is charged with training health professionals, conducting research, and instituting programs to improve health literacy in Arkansas.
- Ann Bynum’s group completed the Workforce Vacancy Study for 2011, again showing a huge need for more family physicians and other primary care providers in the state. Additionally, the Arkansas Health Workforce Strategic Plan: A Roadmap to Change was published in April 2012 and utilized the PCMH model of care to make recommendations about Arkansas’ healthcare workforce, which will require even more primary care providers.
- AHEC-South Arkansas completed the Rural Health Clinic purchase from the Magnolia Regional Medical Center, and has begun renovations. They will complete the move to Magnolia and start a Rural Training Track (RTT) in conjunction with AHEC-Southwest on July 1, 2013.
- Many of our AHEC facilities have run out of space, so we have begun a strategic planning process to support continued expansion, and are contemplating a capital campaign with the UAMS Office of Development to raise approximately $60M over the next 10 years.
- Five of our six AHEC FMCs were successful in obtaining Meaningful Use money from Medicaid; the last AHEC will apply under Medicare this year.
- Despite requests, neither the state nor our partner hospitals increased funding to the AHEC Network. Despite this fact, through improved business processes and meaningful use funds, we have achieved a significant margin that will be devoted to future year capital expenses.
- I want to acknowledge the retirement of Pat Vannatta, Associate Director for Education. Pat accomplished so much in her short time with us, and we will miss her, but wish her the very best in her retirement.

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

http://www.uams.edu/AHEC
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.

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

What began with medical and residency training 39 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.

“I am proud to support our AHECs so families in every corner of the state have access to high-quality care. With looming shortages in primary care physicians and other health professionals, the role of the AHECs has never been more critical.”  
US Senator Mark Pryor

http://www.uams.edu/AHEC
AHEC Mission and Approach

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.

2011-12 AHEC Trainee Overview

This year, the AHECs provided structured training for:
- 776 health professions students
- 153 medical residents
- 2,053 junior high, high school, and college students

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 healthcare providers in Arkansas
- Increase the number of individuals from rural, minority, and other underserved populations entering health careers
- Supply professional support and continuing education for healthcare providers statewide
- Provide quality health care services and educational programs to the public
- Promote cooperation among providers, educational institutions, and health-related organizations

AHECs employ 650 people statewide, operating as important economic forces in their communities

http://www.uams.edu/AHEC
Dale Bumpers AHEC Leadership Award

U.S. Senator Mark Pryor was awarded the Dale Bumpers AHEC Leadership Award on April 2, 2012, for his efforts to sustain federal funding for the UAMS AHEC Program. “Senator Pryor and his staff have really shown a commitment to the AHEC program,” said Mark Mengel, MD, MPH, Vice-Chancellor of Regional Programs and Executive Director of the AHEC Program. “Senator Pryor twice pushed through waivers that allowed the Arkansas AHEC Program to qualify for federal funding. If he hadn’t done that, we would not have received federal funding the last two years.”

Pryor is working to reinstate AHEC funding in President Obama’s proposed 2013 federal budget. Pryor recently testified on behalf of AHEC funding along with Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, at a Senate appropriations subcommittee. The UAMS AHEC Program receives about $600,000 a year in federal funding. While 25% supports central administrative functions, 75% supports new programs at the six AHECs with medical residency training programs for family medicine physicians.

Sen. Pryor serves on five Senate committees in addition to the Appropriations Committee. He is a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee; Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee; Senate Rules Committee, and the Senate Ethics Committee. He also chairs the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs.

Origin of the Award

The Dale Bumpers AHEC Leadership Award was created to recognize exemplary leadership that results in achievement of AHEC Program goals, specifically, leadership sustained over considerable time and having significant impact on the statewide program.

Dale Bumpers was Governor of Arkansas, 1970-74, and U.S. Senator from Arkansas, 1974-98. Upon election as Governor, he took several steps to remedy the state’s health care problems, one of which was establishing the AHEC Program in 1973. As U.S. Senator, he supported federal AHEC Program efforts and helped secure federal funding that allowed expansion of the Arkansas program.

L-R: Sen. Dale Bumpers, Sen. Mark Pryor, Dr. Mark Mengel, UAMS Chancellor Dan Rahn
South Receives Best AHEC Award for 2011

AHEC South Arkansas earned the “Outstanding AHEC” award for fiscal year 2011 at a ceremony hosted by AHEC administration. This award results from the annual program review of all AHECs every year to assess the various functions and missions of the AHEC. AHEC-South Arkansas scored highly in the areas of strategic performance, medical student and pharmacy student education, ability to manage and implement EMR systems, patient satisfaction, and faculty compliance. Dr. Mark Mengel stated that “Given the issues that AHEC-South Arkansas has dealt with over the past year, their performance has been truly amazing and they are to be congratulated.”

Southwest Receives Spirit of Service Award

The Arkansas Health Care Access Foundation (AHCAF) recognized UAMS AHEC Southwest for its outstanding medical care and education outreach with the “Spirit of Service” Award during the 2012 Arkansas Medical Society’s annual meeting, which is given annually to a healthcare provider that best represents serving uninsured Arkansans. In photo at right, Kalena Jones, Executive Director of the AHCAF presents the award to Patrick Evans, Director of AHEC Southwest.

AHEC Excellence in Teaching Award

Lawrence C. Price, MD, Associate Professor at AHEC West, was selected by his peers as recipient of the 2012 AHEC Excellence in Teaching award to recognize his contributions to resident and medical student education. Dr. Price has been associated with AHEC West, since its inception as AHEC Fort Smith, in 1973. He began his tenure as a volunteer faculty member, and served as assistant director of the residency program for one year before being named Director of the AHEC, a position that he held for 22 years. Since his retirement as Director, Dr. Price continued to serve as a full-time faculty member and director of senior medical student education. The accolades for Dr. Price from his colleagues, residents and medical students are many. He is described as a “devoted teacher,” an educator who demonstrates “unmatched enthusiasm for teaching” and “an ideal role model”. He is past recipient of multiple Red Sash awards from senior medical students. He emphasizes the patient in his teaching, something that resonates with young students and residents who note the compassion and caring that he demonstrates daily in patient encounters. In addition to his expertise as a teacher, he shares his clinical knowledge and expertise with the community, including volunteering his time at a local clinic for the uninsured. As one of his colleagues said, Dr. Price “teaches the ART of medicine.” Dr. Price was also recognized as recipient of the 2012 UAMS Chancellor’s Teaching Award.
M*A*S*H Celebrates 25 Years!

It was at AHEC South Central in the summer of 1987 where the very first M*A*S*H Program was born. And every summer since then, hundreds of high school students across Arkansas have donned surgical scrubs and spent time with medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health professionals at UAMS, AHECs and community hospitals. AHEC South Central celebrated this event in May, with Eddie Maples, Director of AHEC SC (photo left), as master of ceremonies. It was Eddie and Robin Howell, Project Manager at AHEC Central, who dreamed up and wrote a grant proposal to the Arkansas Department of Education 25 years ago that created the award-winning M*A*S*H program concept, which has served as the model for the popular programs that are now conducted in 30 sites around Arkansas, and through many other AHEC programs across the nation.

M*A*S*H programs have been able to continue and thrive across Arkansas over the years thanks to sponsorship by the Arkansas Medical MENTOR Partnership, a collaboration of Arkansas Farm Bureau, UAMS Regional Programs, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Baptist Health Systems, and the Arkansas Department of Health Office of Oral Health. Programs are often directed by UAMS medical students.

AHEC Participation Award

Ms. Tasha Starks is the 2012 AHEC Participation Award winner. Ms. Starks completed an AHEC preceptorship through AHEC South Central in 2009. As a senior, Tasha completed her Acting Internship in Family Medicine through the Delta AHEC. Tasha has been an active member of the AHEC-sponsored Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG), serving as co-leader of the group during both her junior and senior years. Nationally, Tasha received a scholarship in 2009 to the National Congress of Medical Students and Residents, sponsored by the AAFP, where she served as a delegate from the UAMS chapter of the Student National Medical Association, and as a committee member. As a result, she ran for and was selected as the 2010 Student National Medical Association liaison to the AAFP, and attended the AAFP National Congress each year after. In 2010, Tasha was selected to receive one of five scholarships from the AAFP Foundation to attend the Wonca World Conference in Cancun, Mexico, where she had the opportunity to network with family doctors and trainees from around the world. Finally, Tasha will begin residency training at AHEC Northeast in July.

The Yvonne L. Lewis AHEC Participation Award is given to a UAMS medical student who is an underrepresented minority that has been actively involved in AHEC programs throughout medical school and who matches to an AHEC residency program.
Other Honors and Awards

**Jimmy Acklin, MD (West)** was again named among the Best Family Doctors in America (9th time), and selected by AY Magazine as one of the Best Family Physicians in Arkansas.

**Richard Aclin, MD (West)** was named one of the Best Pediatricians in Arkansas and included on the International List of Best Physicians.

**Ronald Brimberry, MD (NW)** was appointed Chief of Staff for the Northwest Health System in January.

**Peter Carroll, MD (South) and Joanna Thomas, MD (NW)** were winners of the Red Sash Award.

**Thomas Jones (NC)** received the 2011 Arkansas Society for Respiratory Care Educator of the Year award.

**F. Allan Martin, MD (NW)** was appointed as a Visiting Honorary Lecturer for the Department of Medicine at the University of Malawi.

**Linda McGhee, MD (NW)** was reappointed to the Arkansas Minority Health Commission by Governor Beebe, and was appointed as the Medical Director of the newly created Hansen’s Disease Clinic in the Marshallese Outreach Clinic in Springdale. Dr. McGhee was recognized as a recipient of a Chancellor’s Teaching Award in November.

**Dennis F. Moore, PharmD (NC)** was installed as the 110th president of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association, at their 130th annual convention in Rogers, AR. He was also awarded the Generation RX Award, given by Cardinal Health for his efforts in addiction treatment and substance abuse prevention.

**Mark Thomas, MD (NW)** was appointed as a board member to the Washington Regional Medical Systems and Hospital Boards, as well as the Washington Regional Medical Center Foundation Board.

Acknowledgements

**Pat Vannatta**, our AHEC Associate Director for Education since 2005, retired this year. Pat accomplished much in her short time with us. Of most significance were obtaining institutional ACGME accreditation for our six family medicine residency programs (FMRPs), eventually obtaining full ACGME accreditation for all six of our FMRPs, working in a collaborative fashion with the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine to obtain a pre-doctoral grant to interest more medical students in family medicine at UAMS, and finally spearheading the effort to write the primary care expansion grants that were successful in four of our AHECs. Pat has been a rock to many of us helping to navigate many of the regulations associated with student and residency education. Additionally, in conjunction with the Farm Bureau, she managed to strengthen our summer M*A*S*H and CHAMPS programs significantly. We wish Pat the very best in her retirement.

Ms. Tricia Edstrom, former Director of Medical Education and Faculty Development at UAMS-Northwest, joined us in May 2012 as our new Associate Director for Education.

AHEC Career Employees

We gratefully want to acknowledge the faithful dedication of the following faculty and staff who mark this year with 20, 25, or 30 years in service to the UAMS AHEC Program.

- **20 Years:** Betty Cohen (CRH), Lolita McGee (WE), Russell Mayo (SW), Diana Nash (NW)
- **25 Years:** Robin Howell (CRH), Don Richter (SC), Carol Riggins (NW)
- **30 Years:** Joe Stallings (NE), Gayle Brown (SC), Gen Abdella (CRH), Linda Porter (WE)
Pre-Health Professions Recruitment

Our Pre-Health Professions Recruiters continue to travel their regions to encourage more students across the state to become Arkansas’ health professionals of tomorrow, this year, reaching nearly 34,000 students statewide! See www.arkansashealthcareers.com

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

In Summer 2011, 362 high school students participated in M*A*S*H. During this two-week program for students entering their junior or senior year of high school, participants are certified in First Aid, CPR, and learn healthy lifestyles. They also learn about health careers, and how science concepts are employed in “real life” practice.

Community Health Applied in Medical Public Service (CHAMPS)

In Summer 2011, 121 students participated in CHAMPS. This week-long program provides hands-on experiences in health careers and community service for students entering grades 8, 9, and 10, with 60% from small towns.

Hands-On Health Care (HOHC)

HOHC gives students a glimpse into various health careers by exposing them to fun, educational activities such as CPR, First Aid, injections, drawing blood, and physical therapy. During 2011-12, 490 students participated.

A Day in the Life

These are one-day events that give a more in-depth look into one specific health career, such as nursing or radiology, and include both lecture content and hands-on activities. In 2011-12, 518 students participated.

Club Scrub

Various school-based clubs that encourage exploration of health career interests through regular meetings and hands-on activities are supported across the state. This year, such AHEC efforts touched 1,064 students.

Mentoring, Shadowing, Pre-Med Support

Students from junior high through college age can arrange mentor/shadow experiences or tours through AHECs. College/Pre-Med students also receive help applying for medical school, including mock interviews and MCAT preparation. This year, 1,805 high school and college students participated in some aspect of these programs.

Group Presentations & College Fairs

AHEC Pre-Health Career Recruiters also reached over 29,500 elementary to high school students by offering large group presentations and informational booths in venues statewide to further increase awareness of health careers, workforce demands, salary potential, training opportunities, and academic pre-requisites.
AHEC Outreach Initiatives

The AHEC Outreach Directors continue to break down barriers and improve access to health care, bringing prevention, intervention, and disease management programs to people where they need it most through school health, education, prescription assistance, and community health screenings. Arkansas continues to rank near the bottom nationally in overall health status, with chronic disease and mortality rates for diabetes, heart disease, cancer, respiratory disease, stroke, and injuries higher in rural areas than in other parts of the state and the nation. Outreach programs focus on key areas considered critical to improving both short- and long-term health outcomes of Arkansans. Educating and empowering Arkansans to make healthy lifestyle choices and increase the ability of individuals with chronic diseases to provide better self-management are some of the most important and cost effective investments that can be made to improve outcomes.
Family Medicine Residency Programs

The AHEC residencies all continue to transition toward the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model of care, and are on track to meet targeted Level III standards by 2014. Faculty, residents, and key staff at all AHECs also completed training in the AHRQ Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit to better reach health disparity populations.

Arkansas AHEC Residency programs have trained fully HALF of all the Family Physicians now practicing in Arkansas’ small towns.

As of July 1, 2012, the AHECs have a total of 154 residents in training, including 53 first-year residency positions. Combined with 6 positions at the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine program in Little Rock, a total of 59 first-year slots are now available statewide. With funds from several HRSA Grants, 30 new AHEC resident positions will be added by June 2015.

During 2011-12, AHEC Residencies provided training for 153 Family Medicine residents, with 38 graduates completing a 3-year AHEC residency to become board eligible in Family Medicine. Of the 2012 AHEC Family Medicine Residency Graduates, 63% (24/38) remained in Arkansas to practice, and 38% (9/24) are practicing in small towns of <15,000 population.

In March 2012, 55% of the graduating medical class (up from 51% last year) 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 18 who chose family medicine, 10 (56%) matched with AHEC residency programs in Arkansas.

NEW! AHEC residency websites, created by the CRH Rural Health Media Group, were recently launched at www.arkansasahecresidencies.com

Ten-Year Totals 2002-2012

AHEC Family Medicine Residency Graduates:

70% (279/396) remained in Arkansas to practice
42% (118/279) chose to practice in small towns of <15,000
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.

679 AHEC-trained family physicians currently practice in 122 Arkansas communities, including 67 of the state’s 75 counties*

**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**
- *Dermott
- 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
- *Redfield
- White Hall

**JOHNSON**
- Clarksville

**LAFAYETTE**
- *Lewisville

**LAWRENCE**
- *Walnut Ridge

**LITTLE RIVER**
- Ashdown

**LOGAN**
- *Booneville
- *Ratcliff

**LONoke**
- Cabot
- Carlisle
- *England

**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**
- *Haz&

**PULASKI**
- *College Station
- Jacksonville
- Little Rock
- Maumelle
- North Little Rock
- Sherwood

**RANDOLPH**
- *Pocahontas
- *Warm Springs

**SALINE**
- Benton
- Bryant

**SCOTT**
- *Waldron

**SEARCY**
- Marshall

**SEBASTIAN**
- Barling
- Fort Smith
- Greenwood

**SEVIER**
- DeQueen

**SHARP**
- *Cherokee Village

**STONE**
- *Mountain Village

**UNION**
- El Dorado
- Junction City
- Smackover

**VAN BUREN**
- *Clinton

**WASHINGTON**
- Farmington
- Fayetteville
- *Lincoln
- Prairie Grove
- Springdale

**WHITE**
- Bald Knob
- Beebe
- Searcy

**WOODRUFF**
- Augusta

**YE ALL**
- 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 2012, 13 students had Rural Practice Loan and Scholarship Program commitments; 4 are entering Family Medicine residencies; 3 of those are in AHECs.

AHEC-sponsored training took place in 31 counties / 38 different communities

ASHLEY
Crossett
Hamburg

BENTON
Centerton
Rogers

BRADLEY
Warren

CHICOT
Lake Village

CLAY
* Piggott

CLEBURNE
Heber Springs

COLUMBIA
* Magnolia

CONWAY
Morriton

CRAIGHEAD
Jonesboro

CRITTENDEN
West Memphis

* Monticello

DEW

FAULKNER
Conway

FULTON
* Salem

GREENE
Paragould

INDEPENDENCE
Batesville

JEFFERSON
Pine Bluff

* Redfield

JOHNSON
Clarksville

* Pocahontas

SAINT FRANCIS
Forrest City

WASHINGTON
Farmington

SALENE
Benton

Bryant

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

Family Medicine Interest Group

AHEC sponsors the UAMS Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) in partnership with the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine and Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians. Activities to engage students with rural practices are held throughout the year, including suture clinic, medical imaging tutorials, and community service projects through “Tar Wars,” a project teaching elementary students the dangers of smoking and tobacco use. A new Rural Practice Learning Collaborative is now offering additional opportunities through mentoring relationships with family physicians; 5 students participated this year. A new website is also helping to get the family medicine message out at www.isthisyourseat.com
Medical Student Education

Family Medicine Preceptorships

During Summer 2011, 54 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.

In addition, 4 students completed a 4-week Service-Learning preceptorship in Monticello, Springdale, Batesville, and Heber Springs, which combined rural clinical experience with community-based service.

In a new mentoring program, 5 medical students met throughout the year with a volunteer physician for guidance and support. A total of 13 students served as Assistant Directors for a M*A*S*H program.

“I very much enjoyed my experience! The residents and physicians were great and imparted much knowledge about medicine in general. They also gave me good role models to emulate. This experience opened my eyes and I am now highly considering a residency in Family Medicine.”

Junior Medical Student

Junior Clerkships in Family Medicine

In 2011-12, 70% (119/169) 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.

AHEC South Central hosted 4 students for the JRMC Preceptorship and 2 for Introduction to Clinical Medicine.

Senior Electives/Selectives

In 2011-12, 46% (62/135) of the senior class completed rotations in the AHECs. The senior year of medical school allows students to design a program of study to supplement previous training and meet personal career goals. Acting Internships are 4-week required rotations that focus on inpatient clinical skills and instill confidence in preparation for the first year of residency. The Senior Selective in Primary Care is a 4-week rotation required of all senior students. 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), co-sponsored by the AHEC Program and Arkansas Farm Bureau, provides a forum to discuss issues of importance with future rural physicians. Of the thirteen graduating medical students with Rural Practice Loan/Scholarship commitments, four entered family medicine residencies, with three joining AHEC residency programs.
Pharmacy Education

During the 2011-12 academic year AHEC clinical pharmacists served as preceptors for 49 senior pharmacy students. The AHEC sites are integral for the experiential training of these students in a primary care environment. Experiential duties of students reflect the responsibilities of the pharmacy faculty, including day-to-day education of medical residents, attending physicians, and medical students.

A new Ambulatory Care module for rotation students was developed and incorporated into Blackboard Learn™. AHEC pharmacists also provided lectures for the third-year pharmacy Therapeutics course, which includes an expanded audience on the northwest campus.

Monthly lectures were also provided to junior medical clerkship students via interactive video. Scholarly activity included publications in state and national journals, national presentations at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine conference, and ongoing promotion of evidence-based practice within graduate medical education.

Participation on committees within the Colleges of Pharmacy, Medicine and AHEC represent further service to the UAMS campus. Local community involvement involves participation in Girls of Promise conferences, Rotary Clubs and church organizations.

AHEC pharmacists had a statewide presence in continuing education programs for health care professionals in their respective regions. Lectures were given to organizations such as the Arkansas Association of Hospital Pharmacists, Arkansas Pharmacists Association, and the Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians. Nationally, these faculty members served as item writers for the pharmacy board certification exam and for specialty certification in ambulatory care.

AHEC pharmacists continue to play a vital role in drug therapy education and in direct patient care for diseases such as asthma and diabetes. They are important resources within their medical communities for all facets of drug information. Their roles will continue to evolve as key participants within the patient centered medical home model.

“All of our PharmD faculty have a wonderful fund of knowledge. They are incredible teachers.”

AHEC Family Medicine Resident

http://www.uams.edu/AHEC
Nursing Education

In 2011-12, 356 nursing students from various educational institutions, ranging from the LPN to the doctorate level, participated in educational experiences at the AHECs, in addition to a growing number of nursing assistants and aides.

Directors of Nursing Education at the AHECs assist nursing students in rural areas with academic advising, registration, computer and interactive video access, medical library access, preceptor assignments, and course assistance.

UAMS College of Nursing

In 2011-12, 42 students were enrolled in UAMS Nursing outreach programs in El Dorado, Fayetteville, Helena, Jonesboro, Pine Bluff, Texarkana, Batesville, and Mountain Home. Through UAMS College of Nursing faculty in the AHECs, rural nurses can earn credits toward the following UAMS degree programs via interactive video and the Internet, with some onsite practicum or coursework required for certain 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 or Nursing Administration)
- Master of Nursing Science (Bridge Process for RNs with BS degree in non-nursing field)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (Courses offered on Little Rock campus or via Internet)

The off-campus BSN program based at UACCH in Hope graduated 27 students in May 2012, producing a total of 287 BSN graduates since that program began in 1999.

Other Nursing and Nursing Assistant Programs

Students from other institutions rotating through the AHECs included:

- 48 LPNs
- 181 RNs
- 4 NP/APNs
- 81 Nursing Assistants/Home Health Aides

Programs for Certified Nurse Assistants (CNA) and Home Care Aides are offered through AHEC North Central, in cooperation with White River Medical Center.

Medical Assistant training was also offered for the first time this year through AHEC West, in partnership with Petra Allied Health
Health 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, 114 students were trained through these programs.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Diagnostic Medical Sonography classes for the BS degree are offered (Texarkana, Fayetteville) via interactive video from UAMS with clinical rotations through local hospitals and clinics. Graduates can take the national certification examinations administered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Sonographers. See www.uams.edu/chrp/dms

Radiologic Imaging Sciences
UAMS Radiologic Imaging Science students may enter an AHEC program (Fayetteville, Texarkana) after acquiring college credits. It then takes 22 months to complete the professional curriculum, including clinical rotations through the AHECs, hospitals, and other facilities. Graduates earn an AS in Medical Radiography, or a BS in Radiologic Imaging Sciences, with extra hours. Those who pass certification of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists become Registered Technologists. See www.uams.edu/chrp/rad-tech

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 entering the UAMS affiliated Respiratory Care program (Texarkana, Batesville) after two years of professional coursework will receive a BS degree in Cardio Respiratory Care. Students will be eligible to sit for the advanced credential of Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT). The UAMS program is the only BS program in the state of Arkansas. The program delivers courses using a blend of interactive video, BlackBoard Collaborate, laboratory, and clinical instruction. Clinical internships allow students to gain experiences in various health care settings. The Respiratory Care program also offers a non-traditional program for practicing professionals who hold the RRT credential and desire to pursue a BS degree. The RRT to BS Degree program is offered substantially via the Internet and Independent Study. See www.uams.edu/chrp/respiratorycare

Medical Laboratory Science
Through this program (Fayetteville, Texarkana) students can complete 2 years of college prerequisites, and enter UAMS for a 17-month professional curriculum. The first year of the program includes coursework using distance education technology. The last 6 months, the student will complete an internship at a program-approved clinical affiliation site. Upon completion of the program, the student will graduate with a BS in Medical Laboratory Science. See www.uams.edu/chrp/radtech

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 www.uams.edu/chrp/nuc_med/default.asp

Dental Hygiene
AHEC North Central, the UAMS CHP, ASU Mtn Home, and Mtn Home Christian Clinic collaborated to implement a new Dental Hygiene Program in Mtn 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. See www.uams.edu/chrp/dentalhygiene

http://www.uams.edu/AHEC
Learning Resource Centers

AHEC Learning Resource Centers serve as regional medical and health professional information specialists in their regions. This year, **AHEC Libraries served 54,698 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 and inter-library requests can move from library to desktop in minutes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AHEC Library Patrons</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18,767 Health Professionals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,929 Students and Residents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,002 Consumers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54,698 Total Patrons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference/Resources/Services

| 12,442 Information/Manual Requests | |
| 6,971 Electronic Searches | |
| 5,278 Books Circulated | |
| 4,981 Journals Circulated | |
| 4,312 Audiovisuals Circulated | |
| 4,057 Interlibrary Loans Filled | |
| 12,680 Articles Photocopied | |

AHEC Librarians teach group and one-on-one instruction in accessing the Internet, Pub Med and resources from the UAMS Library, and promote DynaMed, which is an electronic point-of-care reference tool supporting evidence-based medicine that is updated daily for physicians and health professionals. DynaMed subscriptions continue to increase in all the libraries.

Outreach is a primary mission and the librarians regularly participate in local health fairs. Several facilitate distance learning classes by proctoring exams for UAMS students via Web-CT in nursing and allied health programs, with the number of these students increasing annually.

The South Arkansas Librarian is coordinator for new Health Literacy training, helping AHEC faculty and staff understand how to help patients understand their health conditions and medications better. She also works with the Education and Outreach Departments on health fairs, community education, and workplace health screenings.

The Delta AHEC Library added 60 new models to their health models collection, which are used by health educators to teach consequences of tobacco, diet, and exercise, among other behaviors. AHEC Northeast is involved with the Reach Out and Read program, this year receiving donations of over 1,200 children’s books from Barnes & Noble during a Holiday Book Drive to distribute during well child visits.
Continuing Education

Keeping up with rapidly changing medical research, technology, trends, and procedures is a challenge for all health care professionals, but particularly for those practicing in rural areas. It is difficult 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 through onsite and online programs, as well as a variety of offerings available through UAMS and the Center for Rural Health via the statewide interactive video network. See [www.ruralhealth.uams.edu/CME](http://www.ruralhealth.uams.edu/CME)

Continuing Education 2011-12

- Number of CE Programs*: 690
- Statewide Program Attendance**: 3,917

*Includes programs produced on-site by the AHECs, as well as programs offered by the Center for Rural Health via Interactive Video technology.

**Decrease from previous years is due to elimination of Resident Noon Conferences from CE count, as well as restructuring of UAMS CME fee and reporting requirements.
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

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

**Other clinics & counseling:**
- Anticoagulation
- Childhood Obesity
- Colposcopy
- Developmentally Delayed
- Hyperlipidemia
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Prescription Assistance
- Prenatal Care
- Tobacco Cessation
- Tubal Ligation
- Vasectomies
- Weight Control

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

**Go Red for Women**
- Growth & Development
- 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

**NEW! Patient Portal**

This year, an AHEC patient portal has been launched to improve patient access and communications through automated patient reminders, appointments, payments, and overall improved availability of information resources.

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**Clinic Patient Services 2011-12**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinic Visits</td>
<td>174,140</td>
<td>Hospital Visits</td>
<td>75,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babies Delivered</td>
<td>1,213</td>
<td>ER Visits</td>
<td>2,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninsured Care</td>
<td>$2.26M</td>
<td>Nursing Home Visits</td>
<td>3,557</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Division of Research and Practice Improvement
Robert D. Price, Ph.D., Director

**AHEC System Research:** Faculty in all the AHECs are currently involved in 10 IRB approved research studies. The AHEC research mission correlates closely with the UAMS Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) initiatives, with the AHEC system serving an integral role.

**Arkansas Practice Based Research Network (APBRN):** The mission of the Arkansas Practice Based Research Network (APBRN) is to improve patient care in family medicine settings by generating and translating clinical research into primary care settings and assisting primary care practice sites in carrying out clinical studies. Active membership currently includes 21 clinicians at 16 sites including 5 AHECs, 8 Community Clinics, 1 Hospice Center, 1 acute care Medical Center and the UAMS Center for Primary Care. The APBRN membership has shown wide research interest with emphasis in chronic diseases. The Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians has been an invaluable resource by allowing regular APBRN updates in the Arkansas Family Physician journal and by sharing membership data.

**Quality Improvement:** All AHECs have upgraded to Centricity 10.0. This Centricity upgrade will help all Family Medical Centers move one step closer to meeting guidelines for Meaningful Use as well as Patient Centered Medical Home. Standardizing clinical data has begun at the AHECs, with all AHECs having successfully implemented ePrescribing, CareManager, and Patient Portal/Secure Messaging.

**PCMH:** Implementation and evaluation of the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) involves production of standard quality improvement reports, including quarterly clinical outcome reports for specific chronic disease and prevention outcomes. AHEC PCMH Coordinating Committees and work groups have been established at each AHEC to work with Central staff to achieve NCQA requirements.

**CareManager,** a patient registry system for chronic disease has been implemented in all AHECs, with diabetes as the first of ten modules. Training from Kyrptiq has been completed in the second Module CHD and results have shown that patient status has begun improve.

**Academic Fellowship:**
Our AHEC Academic Fellowship is in its second year. This one- or two-year fellowship is designed for physicians, PhDs, PharmDs and those with doctorate degrees who teach at least 50% of the time. The program combines quality improvement and translational research with faculty development and graduate courses in the UAMS College of Public Health. The program allows the fellow to continue regular clinical work at home while supporting dedicated time to the fellowship.

**Meaningful Use:**
Division staff have worked with the AHECs to integrate Meaningful Use Requirements. By 2015, providers are expected to be actively utilizing an EMR in compliance with the “meaningful use” definition or be subject to financial penalties under Medicare.
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

Bynum CA, Irwin C, Bursac Z, Jarry J. Health Workforce Vacancies in Arkansas, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Center for Rural Health Publication 2012.


Mengel MB. Working with Difficult Faculty. AFMA Connection, 2011; October-November: 2.


Division of Research and Practice Improvement Projects

Delta- Community Views of Depressed African American Males in Northeast Arkansas. Purpose: Identifying the role faith based organizations play in depression among African American males. Drs. Keneisha Bryant (CON) and Mary Hartwig (NE)

Northeast- Medication Reconciliation In Transitions: The MERIT Program. Purpose: Determining the status of referral completion in the UAMS Family Medicine Clinic-Jonesboro. Dr. Mary Hartwig (NE)

South- Vitamin D & Hypertension in Pregnancy Purpose: Establishing a link between the development of gestational hypertension and Vitamin D levels. Drs. Peter Carroll and Philip Narciso (SA)

South Central- Health Literacy and Pregnancy: Understanding a measure of predictors of, and experiences related to health literacy in pregnant women in an AHEC setting. Purpose: Investigating the relationship between pregnancy risk behaviors and health literacy scores on the HLSI-SF in a sample of pregnant women. Dr. Kristie Hadden (CRH)

Southwest, Central- Arkansas Healthy Body Plan. Purpose: Exploring the perceptions of the community health environment in Southwest Arkansas and their impact on health behavior. Pat Evans (SW) and Dr. Nancy Greer Williams (CRH)

West, Southeast, South Central - Hypertension control among adult patients in Arkansas AHECs. Purpose: Comparing hypertension control rates in AHECs to state and national rates. Drs. Jeremy Thomas (COP), Eli Vinson (SA), Sherry Myatt (SC)

West - Cadmium Exposure in Arkansas Pediatric Patients. Purpose: Conducting the first systematic survey of pediatric blood and urine levels of Cadmium. Dr. Richard Acklin (WE)

AHEC Fellowship Research

South- The Effectiveness of Diabetes Self-Management Education Program in South Arkansas. Purpose: Determining: the diabetic knowledge of participants in the diabetic education program towards self-management, if the participants have achieved their goals, and the effect of a diabetes support group in maintaining long-term self-management. Dr. Philip Narciso

South Central- Can active participation of health care providers improve patients’ adherence with hypertension medicine? Purpose: Improving patients’ adherence with HTN medicine through more active involvement of care providers, by building of a team consisting of patient and his/her PCP based on mutual trust. Dr. Larisa Kachowski

National Presentations


Mary Hartwig, PhD, APN, Tom Frank, PharmD, Leslye McGrath, MD, Kasey Holder, MD, Dosha Cummins, PharmD, Scott Dickson, MD, Elaine Gillespie, MD, Michael Mackey, MD, Joe Stailings, MD, Scott Laffoon, MD, Shane Speights, MD, Ron Cole, MBA (Dec 2011) Using the Planned Care Model to Improve Diabetes Outcomes; STFM Conference on Practice Improvement; Newport Beach, CA
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 3 NCQA PCMH accreditation by 2014.
- Establish a program in Health Literacy at 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 AHEC Family Medicine Residency Programs for their post-graduate training.
- Develop clinical rotations for Physician Assistant (PA) students once the new program is in operation in the College of Health Professions.
- Expand existing Family Medicine Residency Programs where resources allow.
- Establish new Family Medicine Residency Programs or Rural Training Tracks with rural hospitals not subject to the cap on number of residency slots funded by Medicare.
- Further develop our community outreach and pre-health professions recruitment programs targeting hard to reach groups.
- Increase the number of clinical research projects in which AHECs and our practice-based research network participate, particularly those focused on improving the quality of care provided to patients with chronic illness.
Financial Profile

Monies allocated by the State in FY 2012 remained consistent. We continue to develop our Family Medicine Clinics as Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH) by implementing technology associated with this new care delivery model. As our efforts to implement the PCMH model will lead to improvements in access and quality of patient care, funding allocations to complement those efforts have been directed to clinical services.

We continue to allocate resources through our pre-health recruiting programs to target students in rural communities in an effort to increase student exposure to health professions and ultimately sustain a long-term pipeline of students pursuing health careers, thereby ensuring an adequate supply of future health care providers for Arkansas. Our community outreach programs continue to promote health literacy as well as prevention and management of diabetes and other chronic diseases. We have also seen an expansion of grant funded programs such as the Car Seat Safety program.

Due to the general economic climate, we again anticipate no new State Funds for FY 2013. Other sources of funding continue to be well balanced, with the need for self-generated funds increasingly important.
Delta AHEC

Becky G. Hall, EdD, Director

All Delta AHEC sites (Helena, West Memphis, and Lake Village) continue to provide health education in structured programs related to: CPR/First Aid, infant car seat safety, childbirth and breastfeeding, doula training, home safety, babysitting (Safe Sitter Program), health education in schools (K-4 through 12) including faculty and staff, Kids for Health (K-6), awareness and prevention of risky behavior/bullying, fitness programs for all ages, education in diabetes, hypertension, heart failure, smoking cessation, and nutrition, including cooking classes. Prescription assistance programs saved area residents over $1,159,200 this year. Health fairs provided free screenings for BP, BMI, HIV, Sickle cell, and diabetes.

Delta AHEC hosted “AHEC of a Break” for kids in grades 1-12 over spring break, consisting of exercise, health and nutrition lessons, and a healthy meal. Fifty-five (55) participants in Helena and Marianna participated in an early morning boot camp, and a 10-week Boot Camp was conducted for 8 Helena/West Helena SWAT TEAM members who were not physically fit enough to pass their certification. All officers completed the program, 5 lost up to 10 pounds, and all are in the final stages of becoming a certified SWAT Team.

“Go Red for Women” luncheons and teams were sponsored in the “Komen Race for the Cure”, as well as “Strike Out Stroke” at a local sports complex during baseball tournaments. Delta AHEC South provided Worksite Wellness Programs for faculty in McGehee schools and for UPS employees in Dermott. Delta AHEC North provided a breastfeeding lecture series through UAMS Angels Program for Arkansas health providers. The Fitness Center in Helena provided services to 2,950 active members. The Community Outreach Center in Lake Village provided fitness classes to 1,000 patrons monthly through classes in Cycling, Pilates, Cardio Aerobics, Zumba, Senior Fitness, Muscle Madness, Boot Camp and Circuit Training. The Library provided services to 4,860 patrons. The Veterans’ Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Helena continues to receive high scores in quality management and has 800 enrollees. The Diabetes Education Clinic has expanded to 4 ADA recognized education multi-sites at AHECs NC, SA, SW and SC.

Six UAMS Family Medicine residents completed 1-month OB/Gyn rotations at Helena Regional Medical Center. Two RN to BSN students, one FNP student, and one Family Psych-Mental Health NP student completed their UAMS CON programs; UAMS medical students completed 2 acting internships, 1 senior selective, and 2 family medicine preceptorships. MASH, CHAMPS, A Day in the Life, Doctors of Tomorrow Club, AIM, and Club Scrub programs continue to encourage students to consider health careers.

A grant was received from the Southeast Arkansas Community Foundation for our “CPR Plus” program. Other key partners include Helena Health Foundation, AR Children’s Hospital, UA Department of Agriculture, Arkansas Department of Health’s Hometown Health Coalitions, area hospitals, churches, community colleges, Boys & Girls clubs, UAMS Rural Hospital Program, Arkansas Minority Health Commission, and Greater Delta Alliance for Health.
This year was marked by the inclusion of White County into our service area. Amanda Harvey, MS, MCHES was named assistant director and site coordinator of the Mountain Home office. Wanda Turner was named Business Manager and site coordinator of the Batesville office.

Our Pre-Health Professions Recruiter, Sai Kode, has reached 95% of the area high school seniors, and Club Scrub programs have been developed for 50% of the 8th graders in our region. M*A*S*H programs increased to six programs with the addition of Fulton County Hospital and Stone County Medical Center.

The Respiratory Care program continues to produce quality programming through the consortium arrangement among AHEC-NC, UAMS-CHRP, UACCB, and ASU Mountain Home. The program received a $303,000 grant from the US Department of Agriculture to be used for equipment that improves training for respiratory therapists in the care of newborns. Tom Jones, the program coordinator, was selected to receive the Fred H Helmholtz Award, given by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care for lifetime contribution to respiratory care education. He has also been invited to present to the National AHEC Organization’s Summer 2012 meeting in San Antonio, TX, regarding his experience in building collaborative models for respiratory therapy education.

Our Medication Assistance program continues to grow at a record pace, this year exceeding the $1 million mark in the value of medications secured for area residents. A partnership with the Harding College of Pharmacy students in Searcy, AR has enabled us to expand to reach White County residents.

Outreach efforts continue to expand. Amanda Harvey serves on the Arkansas Board of Health Education. A Cooking Club was added to Stone County, teaching children how to prepare simple, yet nutritious meals. “Women Run Arkansas,” a 10-week training clinic in Baxter County, as well as “Fitness in the Park” was also added.

The Diabetes Self-Management Education program continues to see patients in the Batesville office, as well as develop support groups in Independence, Izard and Sharp Counties. Alisa Lancaster, APN, has joined the staff as Nurse Educator, to improve and advance nursing opportunities in the region.

The Dental Hygiene program, with offices in ASU Mountain Home, and the Mountain Home Christian Clinic continues to provide a needed service to the community while training Dental Hygienists. During their Spring clinic, they see an average of 30 clients per week for dental care. One of the highlights has been participation, with other students and dental professionals in the state, in the Arkansas Mission of Mercy (ARMOM) efforts at Jonesboro, AR, where over 2000 underserved patients received dental care.

Dennis F. Moore, Pharm.D., was recently installed as the 110th president of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association, at their 130th annual convention. He was also awarded the Generation RX Award, given by Cardinal Health for his efforts in substance abuse prevention and addiction treatment.
AHEC Northeast

Ron Cole, MBA, Director

As healthcare in this country continues to evolve, AHEC Northeast is implementing the most efficient and effective systems for our patients possible while maintaining a modern learning environment for students and residents. These efforts include, but are not limited to: 1) implementation of the Patient Centered Medical Home model; 2) increasing the number of residents in training; 3) recruiting more professional staff and expanding our clinical capacity; 4) ongoing evaluation of all systems to make the patient experience the best it can be; 5) monitor multiple metrics to improve operational efficiency and improve the overall environment for employees; and 6) conduct research and studies that reduce or eliminate patient risk.

To meet the future demands for healthcare and for medical professionals to provide that care, it is essential that high school and college youth know about opportunities in the healthcare field and what is required to pursue such careers. Consequently, our Pre-Health Professional Recruiter has a presence in many area high schools and colleges, which are further supported through programs like M*A*S*H, A Day in the Life, MCAT and interview coaching, among others.

Our Outreach staff participate in many service events and public education efforts to promote the general health, knowledge and well being of Arkansans. Examples include: 1) The Truth about Babies, which is a Healthy Parenting Information program plus a Safety Baby Shower. Information about Car and Home Safety, Safe Sleep, Shaken Baby Syndrome, Developing a Crying Baby Plan, What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick, CPR for Infants was shared with participants to educate and inform.

2) Miles for Smiles, which is a partnership program among DDS for NEA (Doing Dental Services for Northeast Arkansas), Jonesboro MicroSociety Magnet School, and AHEC Northeast. The program encouraged kids to make exercise a part of their daily routine, taught the importance of oral health, and involved running/walking 15 miles, combined with the application of sealants.

A recent HRSA residency expansion grant allowed AHEC Northeast to expand from 6 to 8 slots per year, which will eventually bring our total complement of residents in training to 24. Eight new residents join the program in July.

We participated with St. Bernards Pharmacy Department to provide a residency experience for two post-graduate pharmacy residents this year, with emphasis on medication reconciliation, discharge medication teaching, and health professional education. The initial accreditation site visit took place this year.

Our library reduced the number of journal subscriptions by 73% through cooperation with the UAMS library and access to their online journal subscriptions.

With payment reform comes opportunity. Anticipated milestones that lie ahead for AHEC Northeast that illustrate our continued progress are: 1) NCQA accreditation; 2) ACGME accreditation renewal; 3) application to participate in the CMS CPCI project; 4) program facility expansion and more. These are exciting and challenging times and it is our privilege to lead AHEC Northeast to these new horizons.

http://www.uams.edu/AHEC
This has been a year of growth and progress. Through hard work by all, we achieved a high level of financial stability, and first time Board pass rate for our residents averaged 95% over the past 5 years. We look forward to another exciting year. We will be graduating 9 residents, with 5 of them remaining in Arkansas to practice. We were awarded a HRSA grant to allow us to increase our incoming resident classes from 9 to 10. We will also be adding 2 PGY2 residents as transfers from the El Dorado Program. Our next Accreditation Visit will be August 1, 2012.

Dr. F. Allan Martin was awarded an appointment as a Visiting Honorary Lecturer for the Department of Medicine at the University of Malawi, Africa where he leads teams each year to deliver care to underserved persons in rural settings using a mobile medical clinic. Dr. Mark Thomas was appointed a board member to the Washington Regional Medical Systems and Hospital Boards as well as the WRMC Foundation Board. Dr. Ronald Brimberry was appointed Chief of Staff for the Northwest Health System.

Dr. Linda McGhee was reappointed to the Arkansas Minority Health Commission by Governor Beebe, and as Medical Director of the newly created Hansen’s Disease Clinic in the Marshallese Outreach Clinic in Springdale. Dr. McGhee was recognized as recipient of the Chancellor’s Teaching Award in November.

The “Yellow Button Campaign,” conceived by our Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) team in an effort to encourage all physicians to push the yellow button which read “Print patient instructions,” helped improve our scores markedly. CareManager was piloted by clinic directors and their teams in October 2011; the remaining physicians were added in January 2012.

All our providers enrolled in Meaningful Use this year. We are also involved in a QualChoice QI Project entitled “Pay for Performance” emphasizing patient satisfaction and improvement of health outcomes.

Ana Sanchez reached over 1,000 students through 50 school presentations, Career Days and Health fairs in all 6 counties in our region. Two 8-week “Club Scrubs” were hosted by Northwest Technical Institute, with 56 participants. Two CHAMPS camps engaged 56 minority students.

Eleanor Hughes provided outreach education in school nutrition, physical activity, and dental hygiene programs. Community health includes CPR, health screenings, health fairs, safety baby showers, substance abuse prevention, tobacco cessation, and disease prevention. Eleanor also consults with clinic patients regarding diet, exercise, and tobacco.

Our UAMS Radiologic Imaging Sciences program served 20 students, with 100% National Board pass rate and 100% job placement. The May 2012 graduating class conferred 7 students with an AS in Medical Radiography and 5 with the BS in Radiologic Imaging Science. The current junior class has 8 students, with 9 sophomore students enrolling in August. The Library continues to provide quality literature reference and research services for 9,500 patrons annually.
AHEC South Arkansas completed a busy year, with staff focused on improving patient services, while planning for transition of the current Residency Program to a Rural Training Track in 2013. We implemented the Patient Centered Medical Home model, signed an affiliation and funding agreement with Magnolia Regional Medical Center, and purchased a facility in Magnolia for occupancy by July 2013. A new satellite - continuity clinic was established in Magnolia, along with the purchase of a rural health clinic. Through the hard work of our staff, AHEC South received the 2011 Outstanding AHEC Award.

Our Family Medicine Residency program completed the year with 18 residents. In June, six residents graduated, and two will practice in our region. Three new residents were recruited, and we hosted 16 junior medical students, 2 senior medical students, and 6 pharmacy students from UAMS. Our prescription assistance program continues to help patients access needed medications, with savings over $60,000. Our Family Medical Center, UAMS Faculty Clinic, and VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic provided 20,000 patient encounters, with faculty and residents delivering 186 babies.

The Carroll Medical Library reported 3000 patron encounters, circulating 1600 journals and books, and completing 1200 requests. Our education department sponsored two Stanford Chronic Disease Self Management programs. In addition, 352 physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers attended UAMS sponsored continuing education programs. Our M*A*S*H Program exposed 13 students to health careers. Nursing education continued through UAMS distance learning, training four MNSc students, with one MNSc graduate.

Our Region 11 Prevention Resource Center (PRC) impacted the region through six community coalition meetings, providing substance abuse prevention literature at health fairs and community events, sponsoring a prescription drug media campaign, and assisting PRIDE Youth Programs in schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, Lead and Seed Youth Council, and other community organizations. The PRC hosted prevention trainings including monthly Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders with the Baby Safety Showers; youth suicide prevention; business supervisor trainings; and social media trainings. The PRC reached over 14,000 individuals through trainings, technical assistance, environmental consultation, and information resources.

Our technology department is keeping pace with the changes required by our clinics to achieve Patient Centered Medical Home and meaningful use status. The electronic health record (EHR) was upgraded and services were extended to our new Magnolia clinic. Overall, we have had a successful year and our faculty and staff look forward to another year of serving the residents of South Arkansas.
The UAMS AHEC South Central Family Medicine Residency Program expanded this year to accept 12 new first year residents, due to funding from a HRSA Residency Program Expansion Grant. UAMS Family Medical Center-Pine Bluff and UAMS Justiss-Lindsey Clinic, are our primary clinical practice sites. This year we had 30 residents in training; 9 completed the program and 6 will stay in Arkansas to practice. Our two clinical sites served over 39,000 patient encounters, generating $6,161,370 in charges and $4,013,107 in collections, for a collection ratio of 65%.

We continue to manage the Pine Bluff VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) located at the I-530 Medical Mall, which now serves over 2,000 veterans. Continued potential for growth prompted us to add another full time provider in this clinic. Dr. Jennifer Dukes-Casey will join Dr. Christine Scott and her staff in July 2012.

Our faculty continue to increase scholarly activities through the Family Practice Inquiries Network (FPIN), with 4 articles published to date, and 5 more in preparation. Dr. Larisa Kachowski completed her second year of the UAMS Regional Programs Faculty Fellowship.

AHEC South Central provided educational opportunities for medical students from UAMS, University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine-Bradenton, Florida campus. In Summer 2011, 12 UAMS medical students performed Family Medicine Preceptorships, and 1 junior medical student completed a Family Medicine/Peds/Surgery preceptorship. During 2011-12, 14 Senior UAMS Medical Students completed 17 rotations.

LaSonya Shelby our Pre-Health Professions Recruiter provided 71 presentations on health careers at schools throughout the Region, and attended 15 Health and Career Fairs. She coordinated two “Day in the Life” programs, and a CHAMPS program with 18 participants. She and Cindy Adams coordinated the 25th Annual MASH program, with 25 participants from 10 school districts in 6 counties.

AHEC South Central continues to coordinate continuing education for health care professionals in southeast Arkansas, offering 63 CE courses for 2900 participants. The Melville Library served 28,483 patrons this year, including 12,681 health care professionals, 13,827 students and 1,975 public consumers.

Kemi Talabi left us to join the College of Pharmacy in July 2011 and Angela Turner, LPN assumed the Outreach Coordinator role in February. We recorded 2981 outreach encounters, including health screenings, smoking cessation, diabetes education, life skills workshops, and health and fitness presentations. AmeriCorps volunteer Brandie Spencer joined our prescription assistance program in March 2012. This program serves 60 patients, saving more than $250,000 to date.

AHEC South Central IT Services Department continues to grow, providing network support and assistance for 18 private physician clinics. Our collaboration with SEARK College continues through the IT internship program, with two interns completing the program, earning 3 hours college credit and invaluable experience in the real world of Health Care IT.
AHEC Southwest

Patrick Evans, MEd, RRT, RN, Director

UAMS AHEC Southwest has experienced a year of major transitions, with implementation of the Patient Centered Medical Home, organizational restructuring, and clinic expansion. To meet increased demand, four new exam rooms were added to our All for Kids clinic, bringing the total to 22. The All for Kids clinic was recently ranked #1 for newborn screening quality among 379 participating Texas pediatric clinics. Krista Niemeyer, PNP, also joined the clinic staff.

Nine Family Medicine residents completed their residency training. Our 8 UAMS affiliated allied health and nursing education programs, saw 27 graduates this spring, with 7 of these students receiving the Herbert B. Wren, MD Scholarship. The phlebotomy course trained 4 students.

The AHEC Southwest Cancer Registry coordinates the Commission on Cancer (CoC) Approved Cancer Programs for CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System and Wadley Regional Medical Center in Texarkana. The cancer registry accessioned 1,018 newly diagnosed cases in 2011 for a total of 26,197 patients in the two facilities, with a follow up rate of 94%.

The Community Education staff conducted monthly Safety Baby Showers, a project of Arkansas Children’s Hospital, in partnership with the Miller/Bowie Health Coalition. Our staff also assisted in writing two Blue & You Foundation health education grants awarded to the Growing Health Communities Program in Howard County, and a start-up grant for the Cossatot Community Health Center in De Queen. Since 2002, AHEC Southwest has facilitated a largely Latino outreach clinic in DeQueen. A partnership with the UA Cossatot Community College and Healthy Connections FHQC in Mena has relocated that clinic to the Cossatot campus and entrusted clinic operations to them. The CE staff also implemented the “Be Well, Live Well” Chronic Disease Self Management program in partnership with the Texarkana Center on Aging. This 6-week Stanford curriculum, which equips participants to manage their own health, was provided in Texarkana and Nashville.

A pilot Community Health Worker “Liaison” research project was launched with 18 area adults, to help address health literacy and health navigation needs of medically underserved populations by training “natural helpers” to help community members access appropriate health care resources. Educational content is from the Minnesota Community Health Worker Coalition and is taught by AHEC SW staff and local leaders.

AHEC Southwest continued hosting Hands On Health Care (HOHC) programs, and partnered with AHEC South Arkansas to host a HOHC program at SAU in Magnolia, reaching 80 science majors. UAMS AHEC Southwest also sponsored M*A*S*H programs in both Texarkana and Nashville this summer, with 34 participants.

The Arkansas Health Care Access Foundation recognized UAMS AHEC Southwest for its outstanding medical care and education outreach with the “Spirit of Service” Award during the 2012 Arkansas Medical Society’s annual meeting, which is given annually to a healthcare provider that best represents serving uninsured Arkansans.
AHEC West continues to position itself to address the challenges of the changing health care environment and meet the needs of our patients. We continue to implement EMR systems and train faculty, residents, and staff in team-oriented and patient-centered methods to improve patient care, especially chronic disease management and prevention. In 2012-13, we will apply to the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for accreditation in patient centered care. This year, all AHEC West Medical Faculty and Nurse Practitioners were awarded Meaningful Use recognition and related funding. Many faculty, residents and staff also received training in health literacy, and in clinical problem solving techniques based upon Designed to Adapt concepts.

AHEC West expanded the number of residents in training from 22 to 24 this year, and received ACGME approval to expand to 30 (10 per year). Beginning July 1, 2012, a new Teaching Health Center Grant from HRSA will allow us to increase our residency program by 6 residents (2 per year). A 4,378 square foot medical facility one block from our primary family medical center in Fort Smith was purchased and remodeled, which will allow expansion of patient care services and training of additional residents. We were awarded full ACGME accreditation in 2011-12, with the next site visit scheduled for 2016.

Dr. Larry Price retired June 30, 2012, after being with AHEC West for over 35 years, serving as faculty member and center director. He has been instrumental in the Center’s success and we wish him well. Tabasum Imran, MD, joined us as a new faculty member.

This year, we provided 32,341 outpatient and 19,351 inpatient exams, delivered 369 babies, conducted 300 OB ultra-sounds, and performed 1800 patient procedures. AHEC provided education for 33 medical students, 9 pharmacy students, 4 NP students, 39 BSN students, 8 ADN students, 18 LPN students, 8 medical assistant students, 5 shadowing/mentoring students, and 3 Upward Bound Program students. In addition, the Director of Nursing Education, Peggy Brigance, taught 21 NP students via online courses.

Larry Price, MD received the 2012 AHEC Excellence in Teaching Award and the UAMS Chancellor’s Teaching Award. Jimmy Acklin, MD was chosen as one of the Best Family Doctors in America and by AY Magazine as one of the Best Family Physicians in Arkansas. Richard Aclin, MD, was again named one of the Best Pediatricians in Arkansas and included on the International List of Best Physicians.

AHEC West Outreach and Pre-Health Recruiting staff conducted over 17,000 school events, health fairs, education for adults and children, prescription assistance, and screenings. In addition, many students participated in shadowing opportunities, CPR training, a Day in the Life, and the popular M*A*S*H program. The AHEC West library provided services for over 4,000 patrons this year, and AHEC faculty, residents, and staff provided thousands of hours in service to the community.
Key Partners

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 (page 34).

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

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 385 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 our 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 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 South Arkansas Teaching Hospital:**
- Medical Center of South Arkansas

**AHEC South Central Teaching Hospital:**
- Jefferson Regional Medical Center

**AHEC Southwest Teaching Hospitals:**
- CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System
- CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital
- Wadley Regional Medical Center

**AHEC West Teaching Hospitals:**
- Sparks 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.

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Buddy McMahon
Jimmy Bell

AHEC Northeast Advisory Board
Guy Patteson
Mark Brown, MD

AHEC North Central Advisory Board
Gary Bebow
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AHEC South Central Advisory Board
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AHEC South Arkansas Advisory Board
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