**UC AHEC Program Activity Report**

**January - March 2024**

**Goal 1.** Increase and expand the urban and rural underserved healthcare workforce through programs that expose underrepresented minority and rural students to health care careers.

**Pipeline Healthcare Pathways Project**

Awarded the Health Collaborative’s Regional Career Exploration Committee’s grant for Cincinnati Public Schools’ Riverview Academy for a day at the College of Allied Health Sciences and UC Health; Attended two Healthcare Pathways Group meetings; Project with UC Center for Ethics and Riverview East Academy on integrating ‘moral reasoning’ in the healthcare curriculum there is on pause; Served as HOSA judges for its regional event at Grant Career Center; Attended 2 CPS Strong committee meetings; Working with Cincinnati State and the Freeman Center for IDD at UC Health on a HRSA grant proposal to create a pathway for home and community-based professionals in serving IDD patients; Attended 1 Regional Career Exploration Committee meeting; Attended Woodward ‘Sticks for Kicks’ event; Pursuing idea to create co-op/intern opportunities for UC students to serve as educators/administrators for CPS to support work-based learning; Pursuing creation of mini-mass casualty incident for high school students to familiarize them with public health/police/fire/healthcare responders; Meeting with CISE/Archdiocese of Cincinnati school personnel to discuss work-based learning/pathway programs, and working with The Workforce Council, Hamilton County Mental Health and Addiction Services Board, RBHWC and Talbert House on an OhioMHAS behavioral health workforce development grant to create awareness and train high school students in one inner-city and one suburban Hamilton County school on behavioral health pathways.

**Rural Health Student Interest Group and Statewide Rural Physician Training Pathways (RPTP) Initiative**

RHIG hosted Dr. Montiel Rosenthal to discuss global health/community health care, and there is a leadership transition planned for February. The Rural Physician Training Pathways group was selected to present at the National Rural Health Conference on the data collection efforts of five Ohio medical schools.

**Behavioral Health Workforce**

Work continues on the national ECHO project; Master’s in Human Resources student Liz Moshier from the Lindner College of Business is researching her capstone project on best practices in employee retention; Hosted successful Higher Education Learning Collaborative event on February 23 – 85 attendees with a dozen regional colleges/universities represented and a personalized video message from Governor DeWine. Committee work continues as well.

**Goal 2.** Partner with strategic organizations across the community, region, state, and nation to advance healthcare to rural and urban areas and support existing healthcare programs and providers.

**Older Adult Aging in Partnership with UC Division of Geriatric Medicine**

We have partnered with the Geriatrics Division in the Department of Family Medicine to promote rural and underserved health initiatives for older adults in our community.

* Older Adult Training Simulation: We have two older adult training simulation suits. We have partnered with the Research and Geriatrics Divisions at UC Department of Family Medicine to research simulation experiences that will increase empathy in those caring for older adults. We have had interprofessional learners throughout the community train on these suits. The suits were used at the Southern Hills Summer Career Academy, an event for middle and high school students interested in healthcare careers. The new UC West Chester family medicine residents will use these suits as part of their geriatrics training. These suits and simulation exercises are available to community partners for training experiences at no cost.
* Integration of AI Into Medical Education: We are working with the Division of Geriatrics and the Office of Medical Education to enhance medical students experience working with older adults in the community through AI models that engage students in case-based learning in geriatrics.

**Goal 3.** Develop interprofessional learners who will serve patients in underserved rural and urban communities.

**AHEC Scholars**
Cohort 5 continued their second year and Cohort 6 continued their first year of AHEC Scholars interdisciplinary programming throughout Fall 2023 and Spring 2024. There are currently 5 students in Cohort 5 and 15 students in Cohort 6.

AHEC Scholars completed events and assignments that spanned topics relating to care in rural and urban underserved communities. These are:

* + **Maximizing Agriculture to Enhance Nutrient Composition to Better Fulfill Dietary Recommendations, Jan 30**
	*virtual workshop*
	This workshop focused on what upstream changes in agriculture and food production can do to help the public better meet nutrition requirements and dietary guidelines, especially in rural and underserved locations.
	+ **In Their Own Words: BIPOC First Responders & Healthcare Professionals, Feb 15**
	*webinar*
	Scholars learned that while every job has its challenges, first responders and healthcare professionals that are also members of the BIPOC community have unique and distinct experiences. Professionals from local agencies (Brown Co.) shared their personal experiences, current trends they observe, and ways to keep moving forward.
	+ **Creating a Health Equity Culture - Tools and Resources to Support Rural Health Care Leaders, Feb 14**
	*webinar*
	This session highlighted new tools and resources to support rural health care leaders in moving their organizations and communities forward to create and sustain a culture that values and advances health equity. Examples of rural health organizations that are implementing programs to improve the diversity of its healthcare workforce to reflect the communities they serve, establishing organizational policies to identify challenges addressing social drivers of health (SDoH), and engaging with community partners to promote equity within quality and value-based programs were featured in detail.
	+ **Addressing Legal Obstacles to Hiring Formerly Incarcerated Individuals as Community Health Workers, Feb 15**
	*webinar*
	Scholars learned that people who are incarcerated have higher rates of chronic health conditions, and these conditions tend to worsen upon their release, primarily due to barriers to accessing health care. In this webinar, participants learned about the legal barriers to hiring CHWs with incarceration histories and opportunities for policy change.

**Milford HOSA Partnership**

The UC AHEC and Milford HOSA Partnership has continued as planned. Milford students competed at the Regional HOSA Conference at Grant Career Center on January 27 (13 schools present, estimated 250 kids).

**Results:**

* 1st place- 1 solo student
* 2nd place- 6 solo students and 1 team
* 3rd place- 2 solo students
* 4th place- 8 individual students
* 5 AHEC Scholars served as judges (along with Taylor and Sharron)

Taylor will be visiting these students throughout the end of the school year, as they will be continuing working on their projects. They will present them in Nashville in June at the HOSA International Leadership Conference.