

THREE RIVERS AHEC 2025 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Building and Sustaining a Healthcare Workforce

OCMULGEE RIVER
MONROE COUNTY

RECRUIT Preparing students for careers in healthcare

K-12 Intensive Health Career Participants

Goal: 50 Reached: 178

Classroom Presentations/Career Fairs

Goal: 2300 Reached: 2759

TRAIN Facilitating community-based clinical training experiences for health professions students

Community-based Clinical Rotations

Goal: 516 Reached: 835

Housing and Travel Supported Rotations

Goal: 368 Reached: 504

RETAIN Retaining practitioners in the community

Continuing Education Participants

Goal: 400 Reached: 1267

Mental Health First Aid Participants

Goal: 50 Reached: 54

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR: The fiscal year began as we marked our 30th anniversary, a milestone that reflects dedication, maturity, and sustained growth. These qualities mirror the current stage of our organization's development and the strength of the foundation built over the past three decades. During this time, the healthcare workforce continued to face significant challenges. Increasing pressures, persistent workforce shortages, and rising costs have made it more difficult to meet the growing demand for care across our communities. In recognition of both our history and the evolving landscape ahead, we engaged in a collaborative strategic planning process. Staff and members of the board of directors participated in thoughtful discussions that shaped a new three-year plan. This process identified several key priorities: strengthening community partnerships, increasing investment in students, expanding our work in rural areas, and enhancing awareness and engagement across the region. These priorities position us to respond more effectively to the healthcare needs of our communities while building on the legacy of service established over the past 30 years.

THREE RIVERS AHEC STAFF



THERESA WILLIAMS
Clinical Training
Coordinator



YVETTE PAYTON
Manager of Retention
and Technology



CRYSTAL HAND
Executive Director



JENNIFER FRAZIER
Operations & Student
Support Coordinator



COURTNEY BROWN
Health Careers & Special
Projects Coordinator



2025 Highlights

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Counties Served:

- Bibb
- Butts
- Carroll
- Chattahoochee
- Coweta
- Crawford
- Fayette
- Harris
- Heard
- Henry
- Jasper
- Jones
- Lamar
- Macon
- Marion
- Meriwether
- Monroe
- Muscogee
- Newton
- Peach
- Pike
- Rockdale
- Schley
- Spalding
- Talbot
- Taylor
- Troup
- Upson

RECRUIT

Hands-on pipeline programs like **Scrubs Camps**, **Chart the Course Health Careers Academy**, and the **AHEC Scholars Program** offer insights into healthcare careers and help participants develop practical skills.

Scrubs Camp Participants- Columbus/Macon	47/24
Chart the Course Members	20
Total Chart the Course Scholarship Funds Awarded	\$3,800
AHEC Scholars Program: Cohort 6 Completers	8
AHEC Scholars Program: Cohort 7 Accepted	13

TRAIN

The **PCOM GA Anchor Program** connects third-year students with a supportive community, helps expand their professional networks, and prepares them for residency and careers. This year marks the welcoming of the 17th cohort.

Class of 2025	13
- Matched in Three Rivers Region	2 IM & FM
- Matched in Surrounding AHEC Regions	4 1- EM, 1- FM, & 2 IM
Class of 2026	14

RETAIN

The **RN Reentry Program** provides a pathway to licensure for GA nurses with lapsed or inactive licenses and for those seeking licensure through endorsement. Our work extends beyond

our 28-county service area to support surrounding AHEC regions.	Three Rivers Region	Other Supported Regions
Enrolled Participants	5	16
Program Completers	7	19
Employed Completers	7	15

- Three Rivers supported 57 participants across AHEC regions

Beverley Townsend, MD, MBA, FAAFP

District Health Director
West Central Health District
Columbus Dept. of Public Health

Brian S. McCluskey, PhD

Retired Chairman/CEO
Human Performance and
Rehabilitation Center

Denise D. Kornegay, MSW

Executive Program Director
Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
Augusta University

Jaketra Bryant, PhD, LPC

Professional Counselor
Dr. Jaketra Bryant Coaching & Speaking LLC

John R. Bucholtz, DO

Director of Medical Education
Piedmont Columbus Regional - Midtown

Katey Hughes, PhD

Associate Dean for Student Affairs
Dept. of Biomedical Sciences, Professor
Mercer University School of Medicine

Lawanda Greene,

PhD(c), DNP, AGACNP-BC
Assistant Vice President for Nursing
Southern Crescent Technical College

Marci Hanson

Student Placement Administrator
Piedmont Healthcare

Matt Dennis, EdD, MPA, RRT

Dean of Academic Affairs
Health Sciences & Nursing
Columbus Technical College

Sarah E. Lang, MHA

Retired Executive Director/CEO
Valley Healthcare System

Tamara Condrey, DNP, RN, MSN, CNE

Associate Professor
Director of the School of Nursing
Columbus State University

Tara Underwood, DHA, CHES

Dean of the School of Health Sciences
Middle Georgia State University

BOARD OF DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Katey Hughes



Dr. Katey Hughes was first introduced to the organization during the development of the Competitive Premedical Studies Program at Columbus State University.

Considering the program aligned with our mission, we quickly formed a partnership that created meaningful opportunities for students pursuing careers in medicine.

In 2018, she joined the AHEC Scholars Program as a regional faculty member and continues to contribute through thoughtful leadership, active discussion, and participant recruitment. She later became Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Director of Admissions at Mercer University School of Medicine, where she helped expand initiatives that strengthened our health career pipeline program efforts, such as Scrubs Camp. Dr. Hughes joined the Three Rivers AHEC Board of Directors in 2020 and now serves as an Executive Officer and Secretary. We are deeply grateful for her dedication to education and workforce development across the region we serve.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US

