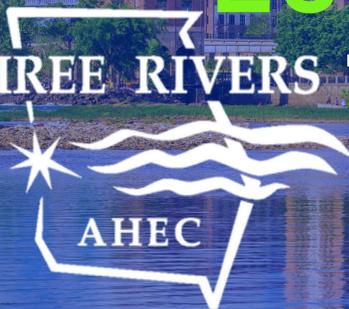


2023 ANNUAL REPORT THREE RIVERS TO THE COMMUNITY



Building and Sustaining a Healthcare Workforce

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

RECRUIT

PREPARING YOUTH AND ADULTS FOR CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE BY EXPANDING THEIR VIEWS OF THE WORLD OF HEALTH CAREERS AND INSPIRING THEM TO PURSUE THE PATH OF BECOMING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

TRAIN

FACILITATING COMMUNITY-BASED CLINICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS BY CONNECTING FUTURE PHYSICIANS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES AND OTHER HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

RETAIN

SUSTAINING THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE THROUGH RN REENTRY AND CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN COLLABORATION WITH OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

RECRUIT

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE

K-12 Intensive Health Career Participants

Goal: 60 Reached: 120

Classroom Presentations/Career Fairs

Goal: 2300 Reached: 2121

TRAIN

FACILITATING COMMUNITY-BASED CLINICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS

Community-based Clinical Rotations

Goal: 469 Reached: 749

Housing and Travel Supported Rotations

Goal: 335 Reached: 511

RETAIN

RETAINING PRACTITIONERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Continuing Education Participants

Goal: 400 Reached: 1418

RN Reentry Program Participants

Goal: 45 Reached: 47

Mental Health First Aid Participants

Goal: 30 Reached: 39

New Mental Health First Aid Instructors

Goal: 2 Reached: 0

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR: Three Rivers Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is a community-driven, non-profit organization and through our vision, mission, values and guiding principles, we assist communities in building and sustaining a workforce to meet their healthcare needs. We thank our Board of Directors, the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network, and our state, federal, academic and community partners for their support since 1994. Next year, we will celebrate our 30th anniversary! In the coming year, we will take time to reflect, refocus, and redesign how we meet the needs of our rural and underserved communities.

THREE RIVERS AHEC STAFF



TERESA WILLIAMS

Clinical Training Coordinator



YVETTE PAYTON

Manager of Retention and Technology



CRYSTAL HAND

Center Director



JENNIFER FRAZIER

Operations Coordinator



COURTNEY BROWN

Health Careers and Special Projects Coordinator

Continuing Education Programs

Three Rivers AHEC co-sponsored 20 Continuing Education (CE) and Continuing Medical Education (CME) activities with attendance from 1,418 healthcare professionals who needed the programming for licensure/certification renewal. The average evaluation score from attendees was 4.77 on a scale of 1-5; indicating a high level of satisfaction with the educational activities. Additionally, we secured \$35,902 in revenue from our partners through contracts for services provided in FY23.

K-12 Health Career Intensive Programs

Health Career program activities made a significant impact in FY23 for K-12 students interested in health careers. As a result of classroom presentations and participating in health fairs, recruitment for intensive programs has experienced growth to further prepare and expose students to the vast industry of healthcare. In the Chart the Course Health Careers Academy, 10 senior HOSA students joined the intensive program from the following schools: Harris County High School and William H. Spencer High School. 6 of those participants received the Chart the Course Health Careers Academy Scholarship totaling \$3,250 and are enrolled in post secondary health degree programs in Georgia. Middle and high school students from Georgia and bordering states attended the Scrubs Camp with an eagerness to explore health careers. Students participated in numerous hands on activities and built professional relationships with instructors and future health professionals with excitement and learning at the forefront.

Anchor Program

The Anchor Program is designed to foster community connections among PCOM Georgia/South Georgia 3rd year medical students and community partners through clinical rotations. We welcomed 14 medical students to 15th Anchor Class. Since the program's inception, over 200 have rotated through our region. In addition, they furthered their skills and professional relationships by speaking to aspiring students, participating at health fairs, and instructed trainings such as the "Stop the Bleed".

Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health First Aid training teaches participants how to identify and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training provides skills needed to assist and support someone who may be developing a mental health challenge or experiencing a crisis. We trained 39 participants to include: AHEC Scholars, Mercer University faculty/staff, and various community/civic partners. Two new instructors have been identified and will begin their training in FY24.

Clinical Training Overview

749 student rotations have taken place in the Three Rivers AHEC region with 233 preceptors. These rotations occurred in 18 of our counties with 16 of those being rural and/or 8 medically underserved. We supported 191 student rotations with travel stipends for a total of \$8,025.00. We also offered free housing to students in 6 cities which has supported a total of 323 rotations.

RN Reentry Program

Since 2010, Three Rivers AHEC has offered the RN Reentry Program for our region and the SPCC Atlanta, Magnolia Coastlands and SOWEGA AHECs. 159 RNs have participated in the program and 5 completed the self-study only. 136 have been trained and transitioned back into the workforce (71 in our region, 37 in SPCC Atlanta's region, 15 Magnolia Coastlands' region, 5 SOWEGA, and 8 in other Georgia counties). Anulika Nwadiogbu, RN (St. Francis—Emory Healthcare in Columbus, Georgia) was nominated and received the 2023 Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses within 6 months of receiving RN licensure.

AHEC Scholars Program

The AHEC Scholars Program is a 2-year nationwide multidisciplinary program that prepares future health professionals to practice in rural and underserved areas. Cohort IV and V consists of students from Columbus State University, PCOM Georgia, Middle Georgia State University and Columbus Technical College. In FY23, Cohort IV participants completed the program requirements and graduated from the program. From Cohort V, participants advanced to their second year in the program.

2023 Highlights

Scholar Spotlight



Meenal Joshi
AHEC SCHOLAR COHORT 1

"I have learned so much through the AHEC scholars program and it has been one of the best opportunities to learn about health care from a different viewpoint. I have had so many opportunities through this organization to increase my knowledge, as well as volunteer and support my community. I was so grateful to be able to volunteer with DPH and MCSD and help them through a tough time. Presenting research at the Georgia Capitol on opioid use was definitely the highlight of the program! Thank you Three Rivers AHEC for providing this amazing program and finding countless opportunities for me and my fellow scholars!"

Serving 28 Counties Since 1994: 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 and Upson.



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