



October 2018

From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

Launch of AHEC Scholars

Over 30 students and staff from each of the seven MAHEC regions and University AHEC offices gathered in Columbia, MO on October 6, 2018 to attend the first Annual MAHEC Scholars Statewide Retreat. The all-day didactic event provided opportunities for participants to interact with and learn from accomplished leaders in the healthcare field. Attendees from all over the state were able to network with one another as we explored new strategies for serving Missouri's most vulnerable and underserved populations.

Speakers during the day included Teresa Leatherman, Bureau Chief, Missouri Office of Primary Care and Rural Health and Kevin Frazer, MD, Fayette family medicine physician and Assistant Professor of Clinical Family and Community Medicine at MU. Dr. Randall Williams, Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, stopped in and encouraged the students in this new program.

The Healthcare Policy Panel was facilitated by Chris Dunn, Chief of Staff to the House Budget Chair; Angela Kleinmeyer, intern at the Missouri Nurses Association; and Rebecka Ernst, University of Missouri, NWMO ACES, Bryant Scholar. As AHEC Scholars will move into advocacy positions for the underserved, this key component of the event offered Scholars the opportunity to explore policies that directly impact these vulnerable individuals and families.

One of the highlights of the Retreat was the Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS). This live-action immersion experience allowed participants to explore the impact that poverty has on individuals and families from a real-life perspective. The simulation is designed to help bridge the gap between the misperception of poverty and reality. Bringing CAPS to this year's retreat was impactful in helping AHEC Scholars develop a healthier respect and deeper sensitivity for disadvantaged medically underserved population.

The participants of this year's retreat left with a greater understanding of the unique factors that the medically underserved population experience on a day to day basis. One student stated, "Overall, [the retreat] was a very valuable learning experience. I am excited to explore this wonderful learning opportunity [that the AHEC Scholars program has to offer." MAHEC is proud to offer these high quality, interactive training opportunities as we continue to recruit, train and develop students into highly qualified and culturally competent practitioners for our Missouri communities.

Missouri AHEC Scholars Statewide Retreat October 6, 2018

MAHEC is a partnership of seven locally-governed organizations and three university-based health professions education programs working statewide to increase the numbers of Missouri youth entering stable, high-paying jobs as healthcare professionals and the numbers of professionals caring for underserved populations.

The MAHEC partners include:

- A.T. Still University –
 - Kirksville
- University of Missouri –
 - Columbia
- Saint Louis University
- Northeast Missouri AHEC -Kirksville
- Northwest Missouri AHEC
 - St. Joseph
- West Central Missouri
 - AHEC – Lexington
- Mid-Missouri AHEC – Rolla
- East Central Missouri AHEC– St. Louis
- Southeastern Missouri AHEC – Poplar Bluff
- Southwest Missouri AHEC
- – Springfield

MAHEC: Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health