



April 2018

From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

Satellite Office Opens in Southwest Missouri

Missouri Area Health Education Centers strive to reach and make contact with as many rural students as possible. This contact is to let the students know about the healthcare career options they have close to home. Reaching rural and underserved students is a mission of AHEC and taking workshops to the schools is a way to serve them better. The Southwest Missouri Area Health Education Center (SWMO AHEC) uses Transportable Workshops (TWs) for school outreach, for example. TWs take the experience to the students in rural schools. This program offers workshops in dissections, CPR, phlebotomy, infectious disease, etc. In 2017, for example, southwest AHEC provided TWs for over 3,100 students in the 21 county region and has 48 students involved in the ACES club.

Creative methods to obtain funding for such programs includes additional external grants and in-kind donations. The SWMO AHEC recently announced a new satellite office is now open in Bolivar, MO, at the Citizens Memorial Hospital (CMH) Administrative Services Building. The Community Foundation of the Ozarks awarded this expansion office a Louis L. & Julia Dorothy Coover Charitable Foundation grant in the amount of \$10,000 to provide additional services.

“SWMO AHEC is happy to partner with CMH and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. This will provide a point of contact for students interested in pursuing careers in healthcare and serving the medical needs of southwest Missouri, specifically Bolivar and surrounding counties of Polk, Cedar, Dade, Dallas, Hickory and St. Clair,” says Trisha Doering, SWMO AHEC Director. With these partnerships, the Bolivar satellite office can expand programming into six additional counties and their 21 schools, with a student population just over 4,600 students.

The Bolivar satellite office will expand on current AHEC programs to high school students including Transportable Workshops and the AHEC Career Enhancement Scholars (ACES) club.



Students participate in a dissection during a Transportable Workshop.

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