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From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

AHEC – Supporting Interprofessional Community Service

The AHEC Program Office at A.T. Still University (ATSU AHEC) and the Northeast Missouri (NEMO) AHEC work with a variety of groups to help interprofessional teams of students engage in community service projects. In recent months, these projects have included:

- A student initiated, planned, and implemented Health Fair in Milan, Missouri. The fair was specially designed for Hispanic residents. Services included screening, education and referral for a variety of health conditions. Students and faculty from the ATSU-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM) and ATSU-Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health (MOSDOH) participated in the fair. The fair concluded the ATSU-Kirksville campus celebration of National Primary Care Week.
- Under the auspices of the ATSU Aging Studies Project, students and faculty from KCOM, MOSDOH, and Truman State University's nursing and health science programs planned and implemented the first annual Senior Health Fair. The fair, hosted on the ATSU Kirksville campus, was offered as a service project connected to ATSU's Annual Lecture on Aging.

In addition to the students and faculty, health care professionals from several local businesses volunteered their time to provide services. These included medication consultation and dermatological, hearing, and vision screening. The health professions students and faculty provided a variety of screening, education and referral services. Seniors were able to learn about arthritis exercises, basic first aid, expired prescription disposal, home safety and falls prevention and nutrition. They also had opportunities to receive oral exams and denture care, osteopathic manipulative medicine treatments, and basic physical/vital signs examinations.

Support for the fair was provided by the ATSU-AHEC and NEMO AHEC with additional community partners including the Northeast Missouri Regional Arthritis Center, Northeast Missouri Area Agency on Aging and Senior Circle.

Through collaborations like these, the ATSU AHEC program helps health professions students engage with the community and provide needed services to a variety of groups. Students also learn about the health care and social support services available in the community, and about working with interprofessional teams. With this support, health professions students develop the skills they will need to provide high quality compassionate health care in their future careers.

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



Blood pressure check at the Senior Health Fair in Kirksville

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