Summary of Partnership
July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005
Ashe County

Library/Information— Ashe Memorial Hospital has been a member of the library services group (formerly known as Library Information Network (LINK) and now Health Library and Information Network for Education -- HealthLINE) for many years. Ashe Memorial Hospital has provided an annual payment of $8,547 to Northwest AHEC for library services. Attached are an overall value statement and EXCEL chart showing what this hospital pays compared to what would have to be paid on a fee-for-service basis and the estimated cost of housing its own basic library without online resources. More information about this service can be found at the Northwest AHEC website -- http://northwestahec.wfubmc.edu or by contacting Ms. Nancy Stine at (704) 210-5587.

Continuing Education—Northwest AHEC CE activities are marketed to healthcare professionals in Ashe County. During this past fiscal year, 73 healthcare professionals from this county registered 120 times for CE activities.

The Nursing Management Institute (NMI), an online management curriculum for new or aspiring nurse managers, managed by Northwest AHEC reported that one nurse enrolled from Ashe Memorial Hospital. NMI is just one of several online courses. More information about CE activity can be found on our website or by contacting Ms. Marie Simos at (336) 713-7721.

Health Careers— Northwest AHEC offers health careers awareness programs in schools for grades K-8. There was no activity for Ashe County Schools during this past fiscal year.

Ashe County participated in the Summer Camp Med program which is a partnership between Ashe County Schools, Ashe Memorial Hospital, and Northwest AHEC. Each partnership is offered $1,500 in support of the program which usually involves having a hospital work with the local school system to organize a one week, day camp for high school students to explore a variety of health careers. A total of five students participated in 32 hours of health careers exploration in Camp Med Ashe County. Information about other North-west AHEC youth programs can be found by going to our website and selecting the topic “Health Careers Diversity & Recruitment.”

Northwest AHEC also offers the UNC-Chapel Hill RN Refresher Program to nurses whose licenses have lapsed. The curriculum consists of didactic learning and a clinical practicum. Students engage in their clinical practicum at a variety of hospitals in the Northwest AHEC region with which we have contracts. There are no contracts in place in Ashe County; therefore there are no students who completed the RN Refresher program during the past fiscal year. If interested, healthcare organizations in the county may contact Ms. Sue Ratcliffe at (336) 713-7715 to learn more about these potential opportunities.

Medical/Physician Assistant Students—Many medical and physician assistant students rotate with local physicians who bring students with them to see patients in their hospital. Overnight student accommodations are available if needed for all students. Northwest AHEC’s Office of Regional Primary Care Education (ORPCE) provides administrative and financial support for these preceptors and students with their rotations in community settings. A total of two students have rotated in Ashe County for a total of five student weeks for this past fiscal year. Interested physicians should contact Ms. Angela Hodges at (336) 713-7717.

Community Health Partnerships— Northwest AHEC provides technical assistance, consultation, and training to health coalitions in the region to support their efforts for local health improvement. Many of the current coalitions which Northwest AHEC supports are members of North Carolina’s Healthy Carolinians Program. Ashe County’s Healthy Carolinians coordinator is a regular attendee of our Coalition Coordinators' Network meetings.
Northwest AHEC received a small grant as part of the UNC Health Initiative to be utilized with all certified Healthy Carolinians (HC) of which Ashe County is one. Our plan was to conduct focus groups with all HC coordinators to determine their input in the design of a faculty consultation service to Healthy Carolinians partnerships from the UNC system schools. The project began in spring 2005 and will end in December 2005. One focus group was completed in FY 2004-2005. For more information about this service and other services and programs offered by Northwest AHEC, go to our website: http://northwestahec.wfubmc.edu or contact Ms. Anita Pulley at (336) 713-7719.