

**Summary of Partnership  
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007  
Ashe County**

**HEALTH CAREERS, DIVERSITY & RECRUITMENT**

Northwest AHEC (NW AHEC) offers health careers awareness programs (30-45 minutes per program) in schools for grades K-8 and structured programs for grades 9-12 (twenty hours or more).

**Grades K-8** — A total of **402** local students and staff from Alleghany County participated in **four** health careers' presentations offered by Northwest AHEC as follows:

| Date       | School                    | Presentation*                                     | Number of Students |
|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 10/16/2006 | Blue Ridge Elementary     | Puppet Bunch; CATCH;<br>Cool People, Cool Careers | 312                |
| 3/8/2007   | Ashe County Middle School | Cool People, Cool Careers                         | 90                 |

\*Puppet Bunch is designed for grades K-2, CATCH for grades 3-5, and Cool People, Cool Careers for grades 6-8.

**Grades 9-12**—Ashe County participated in the Summer Camp Med Program which was a partnership between Ashe County Schools and Ashe Memorial Hospital (AMH). 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 **18** students participated in **20** hours of health careers exploration in Camp Med Ashe County. Northwest AHEC will make this offer again in November 2007 for a summer 2008 program.

There were no student representatives from Ashe County during the NC AHEC annual "Future Leaders in Healthcare Conference" which was held during the fiscal year. This educational conference provides high school students from across the state, who are interested in health careers, an opportunity to learn more about health occupations while also learning more about the post-secondary programs oriented toward careers in health. Students from Ashe County have participated in the past in this educational activity and are anticipated to do in the future. There were **two** student representatives from Ashe County who participated in the summer 2007 Project SEARCH Academy (Student Education, Awareness and Recruitment for Careers in Health)-- a one week, residential summer camp on the campus of Wake Forest University during which rising eighth grade students are exposed to a variety of health science presentations and observation tours. Information about other Northwest AHEC youth programs can be found by going to our website: [northwestahec.org](http://northwestahec.org) or by contacting Mr. Bernard Roper at (336) 713-7714.

**HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENT SUPPORT**

**Medical/Physician Assistant Students**— Many medical and physician assistant students rotate with local physicians in Ashe County who bring students with them to see patients in their hospital. Overnight student accommodations are available if needed for all students. The Northwest AHEC 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 **four** students rotated in Ashe County for a total of **20** student weeks during this past fiscal year. Some communities have begun to use these student rotation opportunities to develop a community relationship with these students and begin to recruit their interest of potential placement when they have completed their formal health careers degrees. Interested physicians should contact Ms. Angela Hodges at (336) 713-7717.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES & SERVICES**

Northwest AHEC CE activities are marketed to healthcare professionals in Ashe County. During this past fiscal year, **100** healthcare professionals from this county registered **133** times for CE activities. More information about CE activities can be found on our website: [northwestahec.org](http://northwestahec.org) or by contacting Ms. Marie Simos at (336) 713-7721.

**Nursing Management Institute**— The Nursing Management Institute (NMI), an online management curriculum for new or aspiring nurse managers, created and offered by NW AHEC in partnership with Greensboro AHEC, reported **no** nurse enrollments from Ashe County. NMI is just one of several online courses available. For more information about NMI, go to our website: [northwestahec.org](http://northwestahec.org) or contact Ms. Ellen Kesler at (704) 210-5068.

**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. For more information about this service and other services and programs offered by Northwest AHEC, go to our website: [northwestahec.org](http://northwestahec.org) or contact Ms. Ellen Kesler at (704) 210-5068.

**RN Refresher Program**—Northwest AHEC also offers the RN Refresher Program to nurses who want to reinstate their license or update their skills. 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. Most institutions providing the clinical rotations for these students use the opportunity to recruit them for employment once students have successfully completed the program and have earned their RN credentials. If interested, health care organizations should contact Ms. Kay Herr at (336) 713-7720 to learn more about potential opportunities.

**INFORMATION & LIBRARY SERVICES**

AMH has been a member of NW AHEC Information and Library Services for many years. Below is a chart which reflects AMH’s usage of NW AHEC Information and Library Services:

|                                        | 7/1/03-6/30/04 | 7/1/04-6/30/05 | 7/1/06-6/30/06 | 7/1/06-6/30/07 |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Document Delivery Request <sup>1</sup> | 5              | 13             | 52             | 70             |
| ADL <sup>2</sup> Registered Users      | 5              | 65             | 24             | 25             |
| ADL Users who logged into the ADL      | 2              | 18             | 14             | 12             |
| Total Number of ADL logins             | 11             | 222            | 148            | 136            |
| Number of Site Visits <sup>3</sup>     | 12             | 6              | 3              | 3              |
| Number of Search Requests              | 5              | 2              | 12             | 5              |
| Number of Consults <sup>4</sup>        | 5              | 24             | 42             | 24             |

1--Materials checked out from library collection; items from library collection which have been used and reshelved; photocopies made by library staff from library collection; and documents borrowed from a library outside of the Northwest AHEC Library system.

2 -- AHEC Digital Library

3 -- Site visits are meetings with Northwest AHEC institutional members for education, administration, promotion or consult purposes which are located away from WFUSM, Catawba Valley Medical Center, Rowan Regional Medical Center, and Watauga Medical Center.

4 -- Consults include telephone, email or in person; includes number of consultations to preceptor sites; categories of assistance can range from various types of technology assists to accreditation preparation, collection development, and training library contacts.

More information about these services can be found at the Northwest AHEC website -- [northwestahec.org](http://northwestahec.org) or by contacting Ms. Nancy Stine at (704) 210-5587.

**COMMUNITY- SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES**

**Quality Improvement Initiative**— Northwest AHEC has been actively involved in a major quality improvement initiative over the past year, the North Carolina Rapid Response Team Learning Collaborative. Rapid Response teams are one of the original six interventions of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s *100,000 Lives Campaign*. The NC RRT Learning Collaborative was one of nine RRT grantees nationwide that were funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Partners included the North Carolina Hospital Association, the other NC regional AHECs, the Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence, VHA, and Premier. The goal of the collaborative was to develop, implement, and sustain rapid response teams in 50 North Carolina hospitals. Fifty-five hospitals across the state participated in the collaborative including 13 hospitals in the Northwest AHEC region. Northwest AHEC staff provided leadership for the Western cohort and support to the Rapid Response Teams (RRT). This support was provided through face-to-face meetings, conference calls, technical assistance, links to resources, and encouragement.