NORTHWESTAHEC
Linking Education, Practice and Communities for Better Health

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL of MEDICINE
THE BOWMAN GRAY CAMPUS

Summary of Partnership
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007
Caldwell 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 (20 hours or more).

Grades K-8— A total of **344** local students and staff from Caldwell County participated in **four** health careers' presentations as follows:

Date	School	Presentation*	Number of Students
12/6/06	Dudley Shoals Elementary	Puppet Bunch; CATCH	200
1/31/07	Whitnel Elementary	Puppet Bunch; CATCH	144

***** 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—Caldwell County participated in the Summer Camp Med Program which was a partnership between Caldwell County Public Schools and Caldwell Memorial Hospital (CMH) twice during this fiscal year (July 2006 and June 2007). 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 **38** students participated in **20** hours of health careers exploration in Camp Med Caldwell County. Northwest AHEC will make this offer again in November 2007 for a summer 2008 program.

There were no student representatives from Caldwell County during the NC AHEC annual "Future Leaders in Healthcare Conference" 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. Caldwell County did not have any student participants in the summer 2007 NW AHEC 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. However, students from Caldwell County have participated in both activities in the past and are expected to do so in the future. Information about other NW AHEC youth programs can be found by going to our website: **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 Caldwell County who bring students with them to see patients in their hospital. Overnight student accommodations are available if needed for all students. The NW 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 **34** students rotated in Caldwell County for a total of **103** student weeks for this 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 Caldwell County. During this past fiscal year, **181** unique healthcare professionals registered **690** times for Northwest AHEC CE activities. Below is a summary of Grand Rounds activity, accredited by the Office of Continuing Medical Education of Wake Forest University School of Medicine, held at CMH. More information about CE activities can be found on our website: **northwestahec.org** or by contacting Ms. Marie Simos at (336) 713-7721.

Time of Year	Activity Name	Number of Activities	Number of Participants
Fall 2006	Cancer Conference	11	152
Spring 2007	Cancer Conference	9	154
Fall 2006	Grand Rounds	4	37
Spring 2007	Grand Rounds	4	45

Nursing Management Institute— The Nursing Management Institute (NMI), an online management curriculum for new or aspiring nurse managers, created and offered by Northwest AHEC in partnership with Greensboro AHEC, reported no enrollments from CMH. NMI is just one of several online courses available. More information can be found at the Northwest AHEC website: **northwestahec.org** or by contacting 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. NW AHEC co-sponsors, with the Northwest Office of Healthy Carolinians Consultant, quarterly meetings of the Coalition Coordinators' Network (CCN). Topics this past fiscal year were: *Charting a New Course for Chronic Illness Care in Your Community*, *African-American Churches Eating Smart and Moving More*, and *Health Literacy*. Caldwell County's Healthy Carolinians group was represented by **six** attendees during the CCN meetings. For more information about this service, go to our website **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. CMH is one of the clinical sites, however, there were no students enrolled for the 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

CMH is a member of NW AHEC Information and Library Services. Below is CMH's usage of library services:

	7/1/03-6/30/04	7/1/04-6/30/05	7/1/05-6/30/06	7/1/06-6/30/07
Document Delivery Request[1]	48	96	42	72
ADL[2] Registered Users	103	112	23	43
ADL Users who logged into the ADL	13	16	15	15
Total Number of ADL logins	251	218	96	106
Number of Site Visits[3]	38	1	0	0
Number of Search Requests	5	4	5	6
Number of Consults[4]	6	16	29	27

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; include 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** 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 in the Northwest AHEC region. Northwest AHEC staff provided leadership for and support of the Western cohort Rapid Response Teams. This support was provided through face-to-face meetings, conference calls, technical assistance, links to resources, and encouragement.