

**Summary of Partnership
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007
Alexander County Health Department**

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 **798** local students and staff from Alexander County participated in **nine** health careers presentations offered by Northwest AHEC as follows:

Date	School	Presentation*	Number of Students
10/11/2006	Wittenburg Elementary	Puppet Bunch, CATCH	140
12/04/2006	West Alexander Middle School	Cool People, Cool Careers	211
12/07/2006	Ellendale Elementary	Puppet Bunch, CATCH	120
2/14/2007	Hiddenite Elementary	Puppet Bunch, CATCH	240
3/29/2007	Sugar Loaf Elementary	Puppet Bunch, CATCH	87

* 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— Alexander County participated in the Summer Camp Med Program which was a partnership between Alexander Central High School, Alexander County Schools and Davis Regional Medical Center (DRMC). 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 **10** students participated in **20** hours of health careers exploration in Camp Med Alexander County. NW AHEC will make this offer again in November 2007 for a summer 2008 program.

There were no student representatives from Alexander County during the NC AHEC annual “Future Leaders in Healthcare Conference” nor during Project SEARCH Academy which were held during the fiscal year. The “Future Leaders in Healthcare” conference is an educational event which 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. The summer 2007 NW AHEC Project SEARCH Academy (Student Education, Awareness and Recruitment for Careers in Health) is 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. Students from Alexander County have participated in both of these programs in the past and are expected to do so in the future. Information about other Northwest 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 Alexander 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 Alexander County for a total of **twelve** 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 of Alexander County Health Department. During this past fiscal year, **7** ACHD healthcare professionals registered **13** times for CE activities. More information about CE activities can be found on our website: 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 **one** from Alexander County Health Department and **one** from Alexander County Schools. NMI is just one of several online courses available. For more information about NMI, go to our website: 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. 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*. For more information about this service, go to our website northwestahec.org or contact 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 Alexander County; therefore there were no students enrolled in 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

There were no institutional members of the Northwest AHEC Information and Library Services in this county. 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 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.