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
Appalachian District Health Department
(Representing Alleghany, Ashe, and Watauga Counties)

HEALTH CAREERS, DIVERSTIY& RECRUITMENT

Northwest AHEC (NW AHEC) offers health careers awareness programs (two hours or less) in schools for grades K-8 and structured programs for grades 9-12 (twenty hours or more).

Grades K-8 — A total of **1,193** local students and staff from Alleghany, Ashe, and Watauga Counties participated in **19** health careers' presentations as follows:

Alleghany County (**401** participants and **9** programs)

Date	School	Presentation*	Number of Students
9/27/2006	Glade Creek Elementary	Puppet Bunch; CATCH; Cool People, Cool Careers	90
9/28/2006	Piney Creek Elementary	Puppet Bunch; CATCH; Cool People, Cool Careers	90
1/3/2007	Sparta Elementary	Puppet Bunch; CATCH; Cool People, Cool Careers	221

Ashe County (**402** participants and **4** programs)

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

Watauga County (**390** participants and **6** programs)

Date	School	Presentation*	Number of Students
9/14/2006	Cove Creek Elementary	Puppet Bunch; CATCH; Cool People, Cool Careers	150
1/4/2007	Hardin Park School	Puppet Bunch; CATCH; Cool People, Cool Careers	240

* 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— Alleghany, Ashe, and Watauga Counties all participated in the Summer Camp Med Program. The partnership in each county consisted of the following: *Camp Med Ashe County* -Ashe County Schools and Ashe Memorial Hospital (AMH); *Camp Med Alleghany County* - Alleghany County Schools, Alleghany Memorial Hospital (AMH) and Appalachian District Health; *Camp Med Watauga County* - Watauga High School, Watauga County Schools and Watauga Medical Center (WMC). 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 **39** students participated in **20** hours of health careers exploration in these three Camp Med programs (Alleghany-9; Ashe-18; and Watauga-12). Northwest AHEC will make this offer again in November 2007 for a summer 2008 program.

There were no student representatives from these three counties at the NC AHEC annual "Future Leaders in Healthcare Conference." 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. There were three student representatives, **two** from Ashe County and **one** from Watauga County, at the summer 2007 NW AHEC Project SEARCH Academy (Student Education, Awareness and Recruitment for Careers in Health). The program 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 these three counties have participated in both 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 Alleghany, Ashe, and Watauga Counties who bring students with them to see patients in their hospitals. 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. During FY07, these activities took place: **15** students rotated in Alleghany County for a total of **39** student weeks, **four** students rotated in Ashe County for a total of **20** student weeks, and **27** students rotated in Watauga County for a total of **73** student weeks. 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 the Appalachian District Health Department (ADHD). For FY07, **nine** ADHD healthcare professionals registered **14** times for continuing education activities at Northwest AHEC.

Listed below is a summary of Grand Rounds activity, accredited by the Office of Continuing Medical Education of Wake Forest University School of Medicine, conducted at Watauga Medical Center. 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	Type	Number of Activities	Number of Participants
Fall 2006	Cancer Conference	6	65
Spring 2007	Cancer Conference	5	66
Fall 2006	Medical Society Meeting	4	101
Spring 2007	Medical Society Meeting	4	152

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 enrollments in from the three counties which comprise this health department area. 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*. Watauga County's Healthy Carolinians group was represented by **seven** attendees during the CCN meetings. 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 an 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. Watauga Medical Center is one of our RN Refresher clinical practicum sites where during this past fiscal year, **three** RN Refresher students were enrolled. 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 are no institutional members of the NW AHEC Information and Library Services in Alleghany County. Ashe Memorial Hospital (AMH) and Appalachian Regional Healthcare System (Blowing Rock Hospital, Cannon Memorial Hospital, and Watauga Medical Center) are members of NW AHEC Information and Library Services. Below is a chart which reflects AMH's and ARHS' usage of NW AHEC Information and Library Services:

Ashe Memorial Hospital	**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[1]	5	13	52	70
ADL[2] 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[3]	12	6	3	3
Number of Search Requests	5	2	12	5
Number of Consults[4]	5	24	42	24

Appalachian Regional Healthcare System	**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]	465	520	788	528
ADL[2] Registered Users	35	229	55	79
ADL Users who logged into the ADL	12	45	38	31
Total Number of ADL logins	223	741	510	739
Number of Site Visits[3]	4 EC[a]	1 EC	1OR [b]; 1EC	4 EC
Number of Search Requests	169	137	175	204
Number of Consults[4]	161	196	458	394

*****Reflects Cannon Memorial Hospital and Watauga Medical Center activity only, as Blowing Rock Hospital joined ARHS as of June 1, 2007.

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.

a- EC = educational class

b- OR = orientation to ILS offerings

More information about these services can be found at our 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 Alleghany Memorial Hospital and Watauga Medical Center.

Northwest AHEC staff provided support to the Rapid Response Teams of Alleghany Memorial Hospital and Watauga Medical Center. This support was provided through face-to-face meetings, conference calls, technical assistance, links to resources, and encouragement.