Summary of Partnership
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007
Appalachian Regional Healthcare System
(Blowing Rock Hospital, Cannon Memorial Hospital, and Watauga Medical Center)

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 509 local students and staff from Avery and Watauga Counties participated in 10 health careers’ presentations as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Presentation*</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/14/06</td>
<td>Cove Creek Elementary</td>
<td>Puppet Bunch, CATCH &amp; Cool People, Cool Careers</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22/06</td>
<td>Cranberry Middle School</td>
<td>Cool People, Cool Careers</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/3/06</td>
<td>Beech Mountain School</td>
<td>Puppet Bunch, CATCH &amp; Cool People, Cool Careers</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4/07</td>
<td>Hardin Park School</td>
<td>Puppet Bunch, CATCH &amp; Cool People, Cool Careers</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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— Both Avery and Watauga Counties participated in the Summer Camp Med Program. In Avery County, a total of 15 students participated in a total of 20 hours of health careers exploration in Camp Med Avery County which was a partnership between Avery County High School, Avery County Schools, and Cannon Memorial Hospital (CMH). Watauga County participated in the Summer Camp Med Program which was a partnership between Watauga County High School, Watauga County Schools, and Watauga Medical Center (WMC). A total of 12 students participated in 20 hours of health careers exploration in Camp Med Watauga County. Each partnership is offered $1,500 in support of the program which usually consists of a collaborative effort between the local hospital and the local school system to organize a one week, day camp for high school students to explore a variety of health careers. NW AHEC will make this offer again in November 2007 for a summer 2008 program.

There were no student representatives from Avery or Watauga Counties during the NC AHEC annual “Future Leaders in Healthcare Conference” which was held during the fiscal year; however, students from these counties have participated in the past and are expected to do so in the future. 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. One student representative from Avery and Watauga Counties each participated 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. 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 Avery and Watauga Counties 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 10 students rotated for 35 total weeks in Avery County and 27 students rotated in Watauga County for a total of 73 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 of ARHS. In FY07, 135 ARHS unique staff members and affiliated physicians enrolled 408 times in NW AHEC CE activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th># Unique participants</th>
<th># CE Enrollments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARHS*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blowing Rock</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannon</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watauga</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Not able to distinguish at which facility participant is based.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number of Activities</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>Cancer Conference</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2007</td>
<td>Cancer Conference</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>Medical Society Meeting</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2007</td>
<td>Medical Society Meeting</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 that there were no nurse enrollments from ARHS during this past fiscal year. 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. Currently, Avery County does not have a Healthy Carolinians group. 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
ARHS has been a major partner and member of the NW AHEC Information and Library Services. Below is listed ARHS’ library services usage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7/1/03-6/30/04</th>
<th>7/1/04-6/30/05</th>
<th>7/1/05-6/30/06</th>
<th>7/1/06-6/30/07*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document Delivery Request¹</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADL² Registered Users</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADL Users who logged into the ADL</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of ADL logins</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Site Visits³</td>
<td>4 EC¹</td>
<td>1 EC</td>
<td>1OR³; 1EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Search Requests</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Consults⁴</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>458</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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
ARHS paid an annual fee of $40,600 to NW AHEC for library services (CMH-$7,500; WMC-$19,100) and for ARHS’ cost share of base library (at Watauga) operating services (35%). In turn, NW AHEC matched this support with $26,000 (65% cost share of library operating expenses) in addition to providing salary support for a fulltime medical librarian to address outreach needs in Boone. Below is a chart which shows the total fee paid by ARHS compared to estimated costs if ARHS were to house its own basic library without online resources and without support from NW AHEC. More information about these services can be found at our website: northwestahec.org or by contacting Ms. Nancy Stine at (704) 210-5587.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information &amp; Library Services Fee (Cannon &amp; WRMC)</td>
<td>$26,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35% Annual Medical Library Expenses (WRMC)</td>
<td>$15,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest AHEC Information &amp; Library Services $40,600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Site Library $156,037</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Blowing Rock Hospital and Watauga Medical Center.

Northwest AHEC staff provided leadership for the Western cohort and support to the Rapid Response Teams (RRT) at Blowing Rock Hospital and Watauga Medical Center. This support was provided through face-to-face meetings, conference calls, technical assistance, links to resources, and encouragement.