

8,841

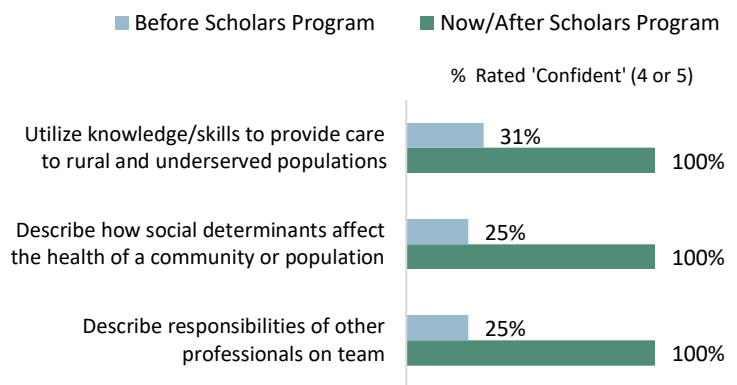
Participants*

Enhancing access to quality healthcare, particularly primary and preventive care, by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals through community/academic educational partnerships.

AHEC Scholars a longitudinal program designed to prepare future health professionals' leadership skills within a rapidly changing healthcare system. In 2021, AHECs asked Scholars about key learning outcomes including: team-based care, cultural competence, behavioral health integration, and their future practice. Selected results are provided below.

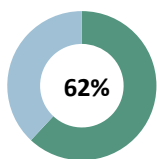
106 AHEC Scholars:

- 49 medical students
- 2 dental students
- 17 pharmacy students
- 1 social work student
- 3 physician assistant students
- 4 advanced practice nursing students
- 8 registered nurse students
- 3 physical therapy students
- 9 public and community health students
- 10 other disciplines

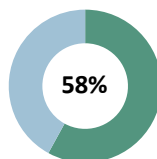


Pipeline programs expose students to health careers and develop intent to pursue post-secondary education in primary healthcare professions.

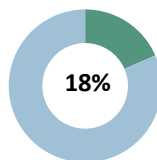
4,606 grades 9-16 participants



from disadvantaged backgrounds



from rural backgrounds

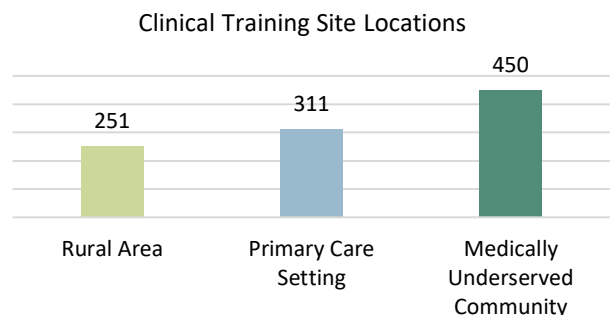


underrepresented minorities

Clinical training improves readiness, willingness, and ability of health professions trainees to serve in primary care, rural, and underserved community settings.

facilitated **3,041** clinical training experiences

- 2,463 experiences took place in rural and underserved areas
- 614 clinical training sites used
- 24 federally qualified health centers
- 44 rural health clinics
- 3 community mental health centers



Continuing education providing health professionals with access to resources to improve the quality of care for medically underserved communities and health disparities populations.

1,194 continuing education participants

In their words, the impact of participating in the AHEC Scholars Program on future health professionals:

- State program office
- ★ Regional center office
- ⊙ Satellite center office

"Each patient has a unique story and a different set of obstacles to overcome to achieve a healthier life. AHEC Scholars reminds me of this with each lecture and every experience. I will be a better provider, coworker, and community member due to this program." ~ Mikaila

"AHEC Scholars has been a great way to take an hour or two during a crazy week and do something that helps me grow. ... Every experience has reminded me of why I went into a service-based profession, and has given me the tools to better help my patients in the future." ~Victoria

"The main thing that I've wanted to gain from AHEC Scholars is practitioner development. AHEC offers programming in social determinants of health, cultural competence, behavioral health, and other areas of practice that will help me best serve my future patients." ~Kristin

"I feel very blessed to be a part of the AHEC Scholars program. Although it's more work added onto my already full schedule, I am very grateful that I get to learn about a field I am passionate about. The program has lots of information, examples, and opportunities to make us the best leaders for our field of work." ~Krysta

"My biggest reason for doing this program is to become more culturally competent and to be able to recognize any biases I may have so that I can be a more understanding patient care provider in the future. ... I have seen the struggles that my parents went through and how they were treated regarding healthcare. I truly want to help the underserved populations when I graduate." ~Kevin

"It's easy to forget why you started the journey towards becoming a physician. I was recently reminded that I started because I came from a lack of resources myself and I wanted to help patients from similar situations. I applied to the Scholars program because this will allow me to educate myself on other aspects of patient's lives that are often overlooked but significantly alter their health and the care they receive. My goal as a physician is to provide care to those underserved patients and give back to the community that got me here." ~Emily

"I have really enjoyed my time as an AHEC Scholar and have appreciated the opportunities to talk with other students in different professions that I may not have been able to otherwise meet. ... AHEC provides so many opportunities that others may not have been exposed to, and for that I am thankful and proud to be a Scholar." ~Bradley

