**Missouri AHEC 2021-2022 Annual Report Highlights**

**8,303 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. Since 2019, MAHEC has asked Scholars about key learning outcomes that are crucial for future practice working with medically underserved and rural populations. Selected results from 2022 are provided below.

112 AHEC Scholars:
- 54 medical students
- 10 pharmacy students
- 8 registered nurse students
- 8 social work students
- 6 speech therapy students
- 5 athletic trainer students
- 4 physician assistant students
- 4 physical therapy students
- 4 public and community health students
- 3 counseling and psychology students
- 2 dental students
- 2 advanced practice nursing students
- 2 dietitian students

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

4,469 grades 9-16 participants
- 77% from disadvantaged backgrounds
- 59% from rural backgrounds
- 19% underrepresented minorities

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

- Facilitated 2,950 clinical training experiences
  - 2,550 experiences took place in rural and underserved areas
  - 613 clinical training sites used
  - 32 Federally Qualified Health Clinics and
  - 44 Rural Health Clinics

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

- 772 continuing education participants

*Numbers include duplicate counts where individuals have participated in multiple pipeline, clinical training, or continuing education programs.*
In their words, the impact of participating in the AHEC Scholars Program on future health professionals:

"Throughout my education, I have found myself engrossed with jumping through the hoops of professional school. At times I have found the rigors of school pulling me away from my true passion, serving patients. AHEC Scholars has allowed me to reset my mind and focus on the greater good while learning foundational tools that will make me a better rural physician." ~ Chase

"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

"I chose to become an AHEC Scholar because of the future patients I will serve. Many are underserved, so learning about how to best coordinate with others in medical settings will be helpful to properly care for those in need." ~ Alyssa

"As a future family medicine physician, I would be doing my patients a disservice if I didn’t educate myself on social determinants of health and how they impact both patient wellness and care. AHEC Scholars taught me to be a more well-rounded physician and how to better integrate patient care and I’m so thankful to have been able to complete the program." ~ Tessa

"AHEC Scholars serves as more than simply a CV booster or conversation starter. It provides actionable knowledge for my future medical career." ~ Colin

"I chose to be an AHEC Scholar because I wanted additional training on working in a multi-disciplinary environment. I believe that healthcare should be holistic and should serve the whole person, and AHEC has provided me with the necessary training and information to see that through in my social work career." ~ Celine

"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