13,456 Participants*

AHEC Scholars is an immersive supplemental education program that prepares future healthcare professionals to meet the needs of rural and underserved urban communities. In 2020, AHECs asked graduating Scholars about key learning outcomes including: team-based care, cultural competence, behavioral health integration, and their future practice. Selected results are provided below.

70 Scholars in the 2020 interprofessional cohort:
- 15 medical students
- 8 dental students
- 5 pharmacy students
- 1 behavioral health students
- 1 physician assistant students
- 7 advanced practice nursing students
- 14 registered nursing students
- 7 rehabilitation students
- 1 public/community health students
- 11 other allied health and unreported students

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

10,587 health career participants

- 47% from disadvantaged backgrounds
- 39% from rural backgrounds
- 11% underrepresented minorities

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

Facilitated 2,020 clinical training experiences

1,670 took place in rural and underserved areas:
- 1,412 medical student experiences
- 66 nursing student experiences
- 100 advanced practice nursing student experiences
- 13 physician assistant student experiences
- 10 dental student experiences
- 69 associated health professions student experiences

Training sites used include:
- 270 primary care settings
- 385 in a medically underserved community
- 233 in a rural area

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

787 continuing education participants

* Numbers include duplicate counts where individuals have participated in multiple pipeline, clinical training, or continuing education programs. Clinical training and pipeline programs were significantly impacted by COVID-19 this year.
Over the past five years, MAHEC has coordinated and presented health career education programming to K-12 students from 341 schools throughout Missouri, with a focus on reaching those students in some of the most socially vulnerable areas of the state and in the greatest need of healthcare professionals. Research has shown that healthcare professionals from socially vulnerable backgrounds are more likely to return to those areas to practice.

Natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks can pose a threat to a community’s health. Socially vulnerable populations are especially at risk during public health emergencies because of factors like socioeconomic status, household composition, minority status, or housing type and transportation. - CDC, 2020