

2018 Annual Report

A Year of Accomplishments



WESTERN NEW YORK

WNY R-AHEC

RURAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear R-AHEC Partners and Supporters,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I want to thank you for your continued support this past year. This report reflects the programmatic aspects of our efforts throughout 2018. It seems that each year, we note that the year was one of continual change and transition. This year is no exception. Continual change offers both challenges and great opportunities. Organizational goals and activities are focused on building diversity, improving distribution of health professionals and healthcare workforce practice transformation.

Many programs continue to flourish. The Western New York Rural Broadband Healthcare Network (WNY RBHN) has been able to expand the membership. Staff has spent time and effort to assess the needs of network members in an effort to continually add value to membership beyond the subsidy available through the FCC Healthcare Connect Fund. A new initiative, the Workforce Challenge Grant (WFCG), through the Empire State Development Corporation will provide funding for our organization to develop a nine-module Care Coordination training program through our ATHOs division (Advancement Training for Healthcare Occupations). The two programs will be integrated together through our website adding value and opportunities to the healthcare workforce in our catchment and beyond.

In addition, the renovations to the William F. Thiel Hospitality House have continued throughout the year. The interior renovations are complete and in early spring we anticipate having the final exterior work, including landscaping, completed. We are very grateful for all of the assistance we received throughout this project including the financial support we received. We could not have easily completed the project without the generous support and efforts from everyone involved.

In 2019 we expect another exciting and productive year. Please consider joining us on our social media sites to keep apprised of our new initiatives. Thank you for taking the time to review our annual report. We look forward to working with you in the year ahead!

Catherine P. Huff
Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT WNY RURAL AHEC

R-AHEC is a non-profit organization headquartered in Warsaw, New York. Our mission is “to improve health and healthcare through education.” Counties in our catchment include Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates. We work to achieve our mission by focusing on:



Pipeline Programming for Youth



Health career education and career path development for youth in grades 9-12. Activities include classroom presentations, field trips, shadowing experiences with local healthcare providers, all designed to encourage youth to consider health careers and encourage diversity.



Preceptor Development & Student Housing

Eligible medical and other health profession students are offered support to encourage clinical rotations through short-term housing and/or housing scholarships.



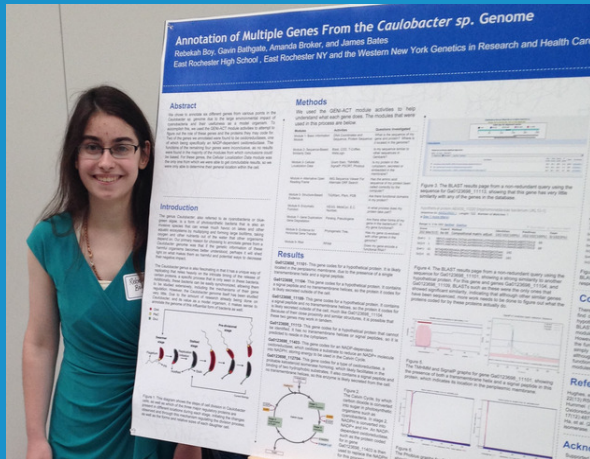
Health Workforce Development/ATHOS

The health workforce development programs are all apart of the organizations ATHOS Division (Advancement Training for Healthcare Occupations) and offers a variety of on-going skills training, career ladder development, and professional skills development programs. Projects have continually changing components and are designed to build and retain a skilled healthcare workforce.

Rural Healthcare Technology Infrastructure Development



R-AHEC is the administrator of the Western New York Rural Broadband Healthcare Network (WNY RBHN). The WNY RBHN is a consortium of partners in rural, urban, and medically underserved areas of Western New York and surrounding regions, which focuses on increasing the utilization of Health Information Technology (HIT) among public and non-profit health care providers-making it easier for health care providers to connect with each other, access online educational programs, and expand their telemedicine initiatives.



PIPELINE PROGRAMMING

Summer Internship Program:

R-AHEC continued it's third year of the summer internship program for students 17 years or older who were entering their senior year of high school or who were enrolled in higher education. Three students successfully completed the program. This experience included a project entitled the "Fresh Air Healthcare Project" which challenged students to create a visual presentation identifying the benefits for healthcare professionals to work and live in a rural environment.

Health Career Explorations:

Students were introduced to a variety of healthcare careers such as phlebotomist, radiologist, and biotechnologist using short videos, activities, handouts, and games. 270 students were asked to complete pre and post surveys to measure personal change of interest and to challenge them to think critically about a career in the field. After the presentations, students were able to start formulating a career path with the presenters.

SEPA (Science Education Partnership Award) in Western New York Genetics in Health Care Partnership:

SEPA provided 519 students in 9th – 12th grade across five school districts with opportunities to explore bioinformatics and genetics through a hands-on cyber learning program. Through activities led by UB and R-AHEC Genetics in Research partners, students learned about the impact of genetic research on cancer treatments, medicines that target specific genes, bio-ethical issues, and career opportunities in biotechnology. Students completed learning modules in the GENI-ACT program that took them through a gene annotation process using investigative techniques and genuine on-line technical research tools.

P.U.L.S.E. (Providing Unique Learning and Shadowing Experiences) Academy:

In 2018, students from select Wyoming County school districts (Attica, Letchworth, Perry and Warsaw) were introduced to various healthcare careers through introductory activities at their high school. Through the PULSE program over 574 students had the opportunity to: attend a healthcare career overview, interact with practicing healthcare professionals, attend field trips and experience healthcare careers first-hand through job shadowing experiences at Wyoming County Community Hospital. The PULSE Academy is funded through the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, William F. Thiel Trust and is designed to foster interest in healthcare employment and encourage students to pursue local opportunities as future Wyoming County healthcare professionals.

PIPELINE PROGRAMMING

AHEC Scholars Program:

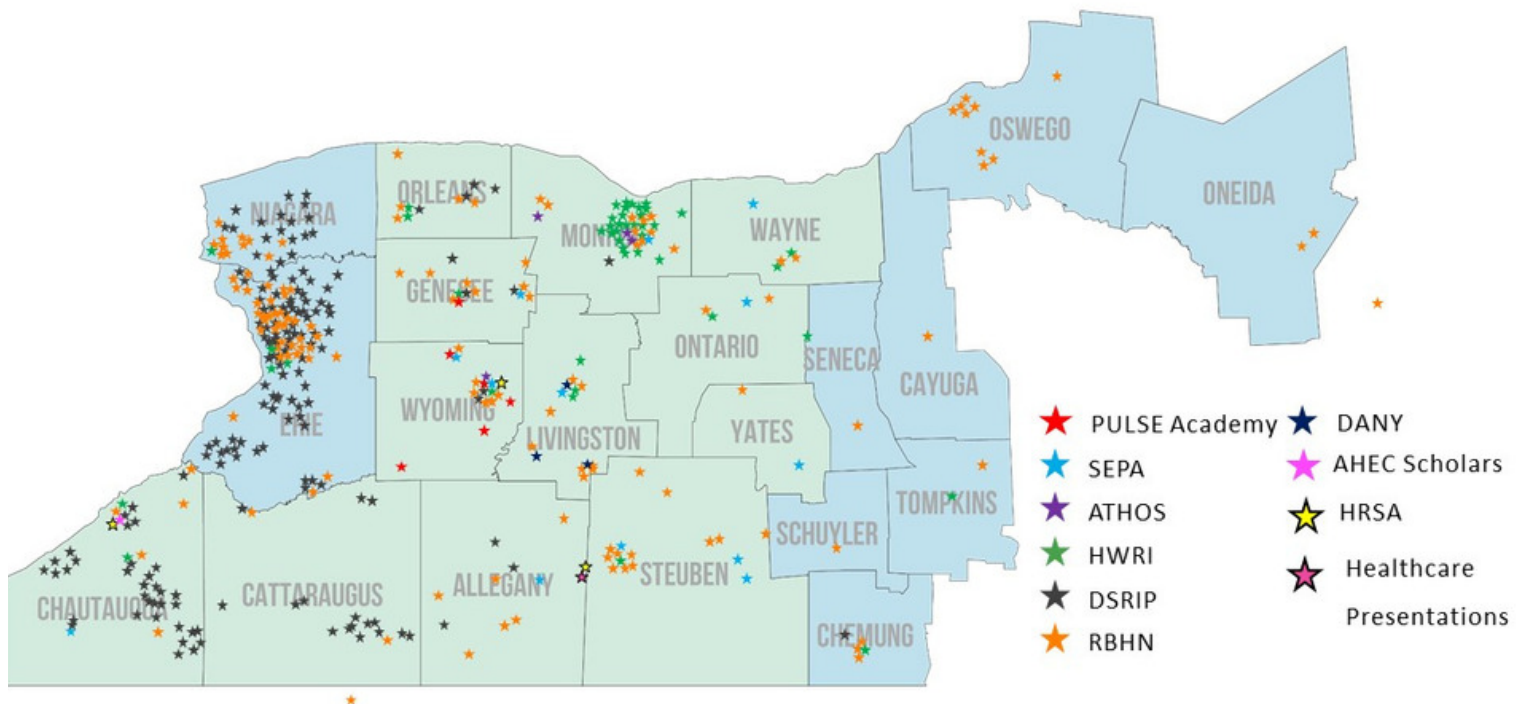
This two-year long academic program is designed to provide current health professional students with community-learning opportunities in underserved and medically disadvantaged areas. Forming multidisciplinary health care teams, students will identify the root causes of select clinical and social complexities, and propose potential solutions to reduce the over-utilization of emergency room visits and hospitalizations for a core group of patients. In the Fall of 2018, the first AHEC Scholar Team was created with three students from SUNY Fredonia. This team will utilize a hybrid model of in-person experiences and online modules to gain in-depth training on topics designed to augment patient care, such as cultural competency, social determinants of health, practice transformation, behavioral health integration, and interprofessional care coordination.

Opioid Expansion Program:

In 2017, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency to address the ongoing national opioid crisis. This crisis is currently affecting millions of Americans, including many New Yorkers. In response to this crisis, the New York State Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System implemented the Opioid Expansion Project (OEP), and received funding from the federal Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The project expands training related to opioid diagnosis, use, treatment and prevention for current health professionals, future practitioners, and the general population in New York State. The Opioid Expansion Project focuses on three key components: (1) Provider Training, (2) Community Prevention, and (3) Student Education. R-AHEC coordinated training's for medical providers, and offers educational events for community members and students to raise awareness about the opioid epidemic, contributes to prevention efforts, and provides resources for communities.



WNY R-AHEC PROGRAMMING MAP 2018



LEGEND:

Green – The counties shaded in green are our 12 county catchment area as assigned by the NYS AHEC System.

Blue – These counties we do work in based on grant and contract requirements.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| ★ PULSE Academy | Providing Unique Learning and Shadowing Experiences |
| ★ SEPA | Scientific Educational Partnership Award |
| ★ ATHOS | Advancement Training for Healthcare Occupations |
| ★ HWRI | Health Workforce Retraining Initiative |
| ★ DSRIP | Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program |
| ★ RBHN | Rural Broadband Healthcare Network |
| ★ DANY | Doctors Across New York |
| ★ AHEC Scholars | |
| ★ Healthcare Presentations | |
| ★ HRSA | HRSA Opioid Expansion Project |

DSRIP Partners:



Health Workforce

HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Advancement Training for Healthcare Occupations (ATHOS):

This year, R-AHEC continued to offered quality training to healthcare providers throughout the Western New York region. Additionally we are in the process of applying for accreditation to offer CEUs. Our instructor-led training's include: Community Health Worker, Cultural Competency/Health Literacy, Professionalism, and Motivational interviewing.

Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP):

R-AHEC continued to support workforce initiatives for three Performing Provider Systems (PPS) in our area, Millennium Collaborative Care (Millennium), Community Partners on Western New York (CPWNY), and Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS). During the last year we completed the following projects for these agencies:

Workforce Spending Collection:

R-AHEC led the efforts to collect workforce spending information for both Millennium and CPWNY. Staff worked with partners to submit state-required information regarding spending efforts and staff-impact focused on the DSRIP project.

Training Tracking:

The agency also worked with CPWNY to track training efforts for multiple partners. R-AHEC staff collected information regarding trainings conducted on the following topics: cultural competency, patient-centered medical home, meaningful use, population health integration, and more.

Compensation and Benefit Survey:

DSRIP Year 4 required that PPSs perform a third compensation and benefit survey. Information was collected, aggregated, and is presently being aged.

Cultural Competency:

FLPPS has engaged R-AHEC to support their partner organizations through the adaptation and implementation process of Cultural Competence and Health Literacy initiatives. Activities centered around this project will include supporting the partners as they develop and implement strategic plans and work plans which will transform present practices.

Health Workforce Retraining Initiative Program (HWRI):

In 2018, through this program R-AHEC coordinated training for 832 individuals in the areas of Healthcare Leadership and Computer Skills. Additionally, 32 students received LPN tuition assistance. This program offers training and assistance to healthcare employees from across a 23-county region and was funded by a grant from the NYS Department of Health.



Students Housing

PRECEPTOR DEVELOPMENT & STUDENT HOUSING

Preceptor Development & Student Housing:

R-AHEC worked collaboratively with 13 colleges and academic institutions to identify preceptor sites for their health professions students in rural communities throughout Western New York. R-AHEC's efforts included providing affordable housing for health professional students at the William F. Thiel Hospitality House in Warsaw (Wyoming County) and through our decentralized housing support program where we were able to provide scholarships/housing for 24 students serving in clinical rotations in any of our twelve county catchment area. In addition to housing health professions students, the housing site in Warsaw, also houses clinicians and medical professionals serving at Wyoming County Community Hospital. R-AHEC worked collaboratively with Wyoming County Community Hospital (WCCH) and Lake Erie College Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) to provide supportive housing to students completing rotations in Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Radiology. We are very grateful that the William F. Thiel Trust, a fund held by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, was able to make this project possible.

William F. Thiel Hospitality House:

R-AHEC underwent a renovation and upgrades project to the Hospitality House in 2018.

A special thank you to the following foundations whose generous gifts made the renovations, upgrades and repairs to this facility possible:

John R. Oishei Foundation

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, William F. Thiel Trust

Garman Family Foundation

Additionally we are grateful for the contributions of the following organizations, businesses and individuals:

In. Site: Architecture, LLP

Warsaw Redemption Center

Perry Veterinary Clinic, P.L.L.C.

St. Lawrence Radiology Associates

Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Betty Lapp

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald J. Krawiec

Mr. David W. Fisher

Mr. Jim Rutowski



YOUR HEALTHCARE FACILITY MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO A
65% SUBSIDY

BROADBAND **EQUIPMENT** **DARK FIBER**

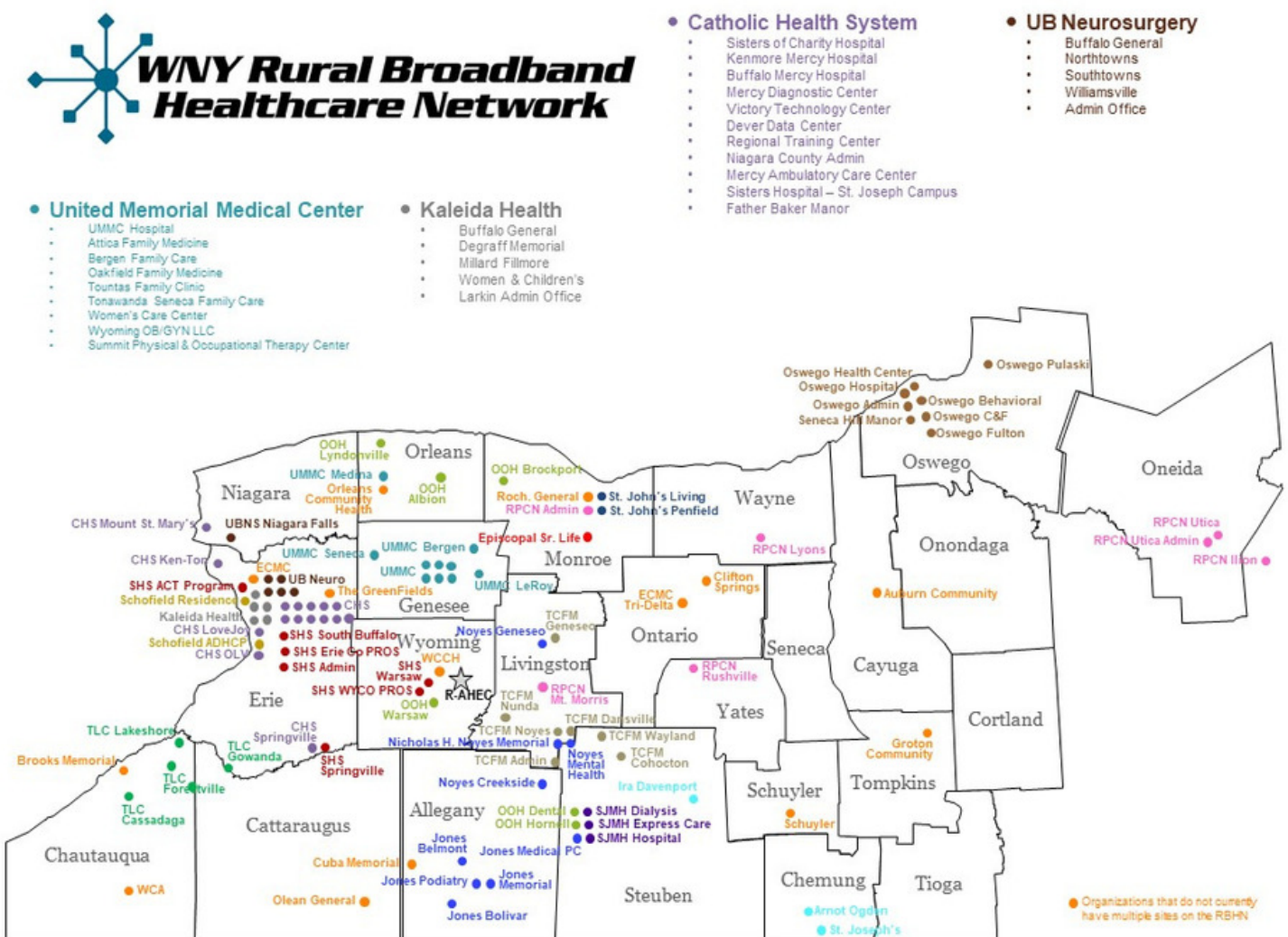
The central graphic is a collage of four images arranged in a 2x2 grid. The top-left image shows a stethoscope resting on a computer keyboard. The top-right image shows a CD-ROM resting on a computer keyboard. The bottom-left image is a close-up of a computer keyboard, focusing on the 'A' and 'Z' keys. The bottom-right image is a close-up of a computer keyboard, focusing on the 'Start' key. Below the collage are three yellow rectangular buttons with black borders. The first button contains a white icon of a cloud with a downward arrow and the text "BROADBAND". The second button contains a white icon of a server rack and the text "EQUIPMENT". The third button contains a white icon of a lightning bolt and the text "DARK FIBER".

Technology

RURAL HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

WNY Rural Broadband Healthcare Network (RBHN)

R-AHEC, as the consortium lead and network administrator, works on behalf of network members to obtain subsidies through FCC programs and to identify and develop other network member benefits such as equipment subsidies and education opportunities. This program subsidized broadband services, equipment, and installation for eligible facilities. Through the network, members are able to utilize clinical mentoring, collaboration, education, and training over a secure, high speed IP Network with scalable bandwidth to support communication, telemedicine and distance-learning applications. The Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) offers up to a 65% subsidy, and allows administrative offices and data centers to participate. At the end of 2018, the RBHN had 191 billable circuits. 56% of those circuits are considered rural. USAC requires that our consortium maintain a 50% rural level for the Health Care Connect Fund program. The RBHN facilities/circuits span across 24 counties in New York and one county in Pennsylvania (our first circuit outside of New York). Over the last three years (2016 - 2018) the RBHN has saved healthcare facilities over \$3,948,204 in broadband subsidy services.



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Valerie Putney - Director of Programs

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Lisa Green - Program Coordinator

Nate Coogan - Program Coordinator, RBHN

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Kathleen Wood - Program Specialist

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This organization is supported in part by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant number U77HP16459 and project title New York State Area Health Education Center System. The information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

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