

Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC

April 2024

Health Education Specialist

Health education specialists develop programs to teach people about conditions affecting well-being. Health education specialists teach people about behaviors that promote wellness. They develop strategies to improve the well-being of individuals and communities. Health education specialists are employed in a variety of settings, including hospitals, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies.

Average Annual Pay: \$59,990



"The most rewarding part of my job as a Health Educator is creating meaningful relationships with partners organizations, public health professionals, and most importantly – community members."
-Mealea VanDenburg

How Do I Become a Health Education Specialist

**PROJECTED JOB
MARKET GROWTH:
7%
BY 2032**

Health education specialists typically need at least a bachelor's degree in health education or health promotion. Some positions require a master's or doctoral degree. Graduate program fields of degree may include community health education, school health education, public health education, or health promotion. Applicants to these master's degree programs generally do not need a specific undergraduate major. Employers may require or prefer that health education specialists obtain certification, such as the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) credential offered by the [National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.](http://www.nchea.org)

What Does a Health Education Specialist Do?

- ✓ Assess health needs of individuals and communities.
- ✓ Develop programs, materials, and events to teach people about health topics.
- ✓ Evaluate the effectiveness of programs and educational materials.
- ✓ Help people find health services or information.
- ✓ Provide training programs for community health workers or other healthcare providers.
- ✓ Collect and analyze data to learn about a particular community and improve programs and services.
- ✓ Advocate for improved health resources and policies that promote health.



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<https://www.r-ahec.org/>

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A Professional Account

Mealea VanDenburg, Public Health Education Coordinator, Steuben County Public Health, shares insight on the Health Education Field.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

“The most rewarding part of my job as a Health Educator is creating meaningful relationships with partners organizations, public health professionals, and most importantly – community members. Learning and growing with the community teach me so much, and allows me to curate my department’s messaging and initiatives to best fit the needs of the population.”

What is the most challenging?

“The most challenging part of my job as a Health Educator is finding new and innovative ways to disseminate health information and make real changes in the communities that I serve. Continuously advocating for the breakdown of barriers that prevent our communities from achieving good health is a challenge – but one that everyone deserves to have an advocate for.”

What do you wish you knew back in school that you know now?

“Public Health is truly everywhere and everything. From education to technology, transportation to policy, everyone has an impact on a community’s well-being. It is an amazingly multi-faceted field to be a part of, and everyone has something to contribute. No matter what your academic studies or job experiences are, there’s a good chance you will find a place in public health.”

Anything else you want to share?

The public health workforce is awaiting young professionals to enter this field. Try your hand at a public health aligned job or experience – it may be one of the best decisions you’ll make.



Click on the image for Health Education Specialist career info

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eldUadZX-s>



Scan Me



Click on the image for a day in the life of a Health Career Specialist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7hiiVlcxUw>



Scan Me



For more information visit the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm>

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D'Youville University & WNY R-AHEC
Partner to Offer
Summer Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP)
Six Week Summer Program
Tuesday-Thursday, Starting July 9th, Ending August 15th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Health Career Exploration Summer Camp for Rising Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors in Western NY

Students experience hands-on learning, exposure to health profession careers, and skill building with opportunity to tour, shadow, volunteer in the community (local healthcare facilities, non-profits, businesses, etc.)



Students Earn \$10 an Hour to Attend!

Overnight opportunity at DYU campus, college experience and additional health profession exposure and experiences (July 23-25).

Located at WNY R-AHEC 20 Duncan St. Warsaw, NY

Use QR Code for More Info and to Apply!



THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA) OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) AS PART OF AN AWARD TOTALING \$2,724,632 WITH 0% FINANCED WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES. THE CONTENTS ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR(S) AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF, NOR AN ENDORSEMENT, BY HRSA, HHS, OR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT HRSA.GOV.

WNY R-AHEC Contact: info@r-ahec.org | 585-786-6275



Health Resources & Services Administration

[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/HCO2024](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/hcop2024)



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo Scholarship Process

\$1,000-\$6,000 Scholarships available for WNY residents with a GPA above 2.0 and accepted into school for Fall 2024.

Applications due May 1

Use link below for more information

<https://www.cfgb.org/news/community-foundation-for-greater-buffalo-scholarship-process-now-open-4/>

Health Careers Resource Guide QR Code



2024 BEA SUMMER CAREER EXPLORATION CAMPS

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 26 AT 9 AM!

Register at www.BEAGene.com



YOUNG DEXTER'S STEAM CAMP



MEDICAL CAMP



CAMP HARD HAT

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NYS AHEC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

An **INTERNSHIP** Opportunity for **Health Profession Students**
Receive up to **\$2000** for Program Completion!

Gain hands on experience in rural and underserved communities while networking with an interdisciplinary team

Receive \$50 and a T-shirt with Program Acceptance

Interprofessional teamwork

Identify healthcare needs

Create solutions to avoidable inpatient care

Improve patient centric clinical skills

Requirements-

- Enrollment in an accredited health professions program
- Commitment to 2 years of learning with 40 hours of didactic and experiential learning each year

Enroll at <http://nysahec.org/our-programs/new-nys-ahec-scholars-program/>
For more info contact: Erin Brauen | ebrauen@r-ahec.org | 585-786-6275