

Rural AHEC Receives Western New York Workforce Development Challenge Grant

AHEC FYI

The Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center is pleased to announce that it is a recipient of a Western New York Workforce Development Challenge Grant. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced in December 2018 that R-AHEC was one of six local not-for-profit organizations awarded funding from the first round of the grant. The program will ensure the region's workforce pipeline meets industry demands in sectors such as advanced manufacturing, health and life sciences, and energy. Funding is provided by a grant from Empire State Development (ESD) administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

R-AHEC's Chief Executive Officer, Catherine P. Huff said, "R-AHEC is honored to receive this grant award and we are looking forward to expanding training opportunities for the healthcare workforce."



The \$10 million program is designed to promote and invest in innovative approaches to workforce training for underserved populations throughout Western New York. The Workforce Development Challenge will help increase the capacity of community-based trainers who have proven track records, trusted community relationships, and outstanding abilities for outreach and recruitment.

R-AHEC was awarded \$388,979 for its project called "ATHOS: A Rural Innovative Training Opportunity." The project will develop a care coordination training program that will serve the rural, medically-underserved communities and the local healthcare industry through an expansion of ATHOS (Advancement Training for Healthcare Occupations), a training program launched in 2016 to help meet regional demand for health workforce trainings. The project will expand training and will offer opportunities for direct classroom or a hybrid program of direct and online modules as needed by the industry partner. The key focus of the curriculum is to educate individuals on techniques to enhance patient-centered care, improve the delivery of healthcare services, enhance professional behavior in the workplace, and help individuals advance in their healthcare careers. An advisory group of community healthcare providers, workforce investment boards, and community members will help to identify resources to assist participants in overcoming barriers to completion, and monitor curriculum and job placement activities.

R-AHEC's project will work in five counties during the grant year: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara.

R-AHEC is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization, serving a 12-county region with a mission "to improve health and healthcare through education."

R-AHEC addresses health needs of rural communities by creating community partnerships.

R-AHEC's areas of focus: Health Workforce Development, Rural Healthcare Technology Development, Preceptor Development, Student Housing and "Pipeline" programming designed to expose K-12 students to health careers.

R-AHEC supports these counties:

Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

For more information, please reach out to us at:

*(585) 786-6275
or*

*Visit our website at:
www.r-ahec.org*

Thank you for your continued support of funding for the New York State AHEC System

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