



Summer/Fall 2019

AHEC FYI

Rural AHEC celebrates 20 years

The Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (Rural AHEC) is grateful to be celebrating completion of our 20th year in operation.

As part of the New York State AHEC system the overarching goal of the system is to strengthen and enhance New York State's healthcare workforce by increasing the supply, distribution, and preparation of qualified and culturally diverse healthcare professionals, thereby reducing health inequalities associated with quality of care and accessibility. Rural AHEC incorporated on July 6th, 1999 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We serve a 12-county region which encompasses Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates counties of New York State.

Our mission is "to improve health and healthcare through education". Since inception we have prioritized the services we offer in the following categories: "Pipeline" programming designed to expose K-12 students to health careers; Student Housing and Preceptor Development; Health Workforce Development, and Rural Healthcare Technology Infrastructure Development. A few major accomplishments are:

- In 2005 we opened a two-building campus in Warsaw, the Learning Center (our headquarters) and the William F. Thiel Hospitality House.
- In 2009 we formed the Western New York **Rural Broadband Healthcare Network (RBHN)**. The RBHN is a consortium of partners in rural, urban, and medically underserved areas. The RBHN currently has 152 healthcare facilities connected through the network with a total of 204 live circuits, making health care technology available in rural areas.
- Health Workforce Development has been a cornerstone service provided by R-AHEC, training more than 8,900 healthcare workers across 23 counties in the Western, Rochester and Central NY DOH regions.
- In 2018 we formed the **Advancement Training for Healthcare Occupations (ATHOs)** program. ATHOS offers online and in-person training programs for healthcare professionals. The program continues to expand and is in the process of developing a nine-module Care Coordination training program. Certification to issue Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) is also in process.

We are hopeful we will be able to continue our valuable mission as we move forward into 2020 and beyond.

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



*For more information,
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or

Visit our website at:

www.r-ahec.org

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