

East Indiana Area Health Education Center

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Quarterly E-newsletter - August 2019 - Issue 4

Health Careers Champions

Our 2018-2019 Health Careers Champions project reached 441 students when it wrapped up at the end of the school year! We had a total of 18 programs reported this year, all of which included health careers awareness or preparedness activities for high school students. Champions reported back on activities that included field trips, health care speakers, health careers presentations, and health care projects or labs.

One activity that was a highlight this year came from Valerie Smith at Switzerland County High. She was able to have two of her students attend the Cincinnati Children's Science Symposium in Cincinnati. This is an invitation only event where students have the opportunity to explore biomedical careers and talk first hand with doctors, scientists and other allied health professionals. Below are a few pictures from this event.



Becoming a Health Careers Champion

2019-2020 applications will be sent out in August 2019. A Health Career Champion is a teacher, counselor or administrator in an EI-AHEC region high school who is committed to sharing and developing health careers related opportunities for their students. Champions as well as schools are awarded funds for their involvement and participation. If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a champion, please email Jenny Koors for more information: jenny.koors@eiahec.org.

IUPUC B453 Student Community Health Projects

For the past several years, East Indiana AHEC and the IUPUC BSN Nursing program have collaborated to give the IUPUC B453 Collaborative Practice senior-level nursing class a community service and nursing leadership focus. After a class presentation on grants and grant writing by EI-AHEC staff, student teams in the course connect with community organizations or clinical sites and write proposals for community health improvement projects to be carried out during the semester. East Indiana AHEC funds are then used to implement the top proposals.

This summer, accelerated BSN students taking the class with professor Karen Werskey developed three community health improvement projects in the communities where they are completing nursing clinicals.

One student team doing clinicals at King's Daughters' Health in Madison saw an opportunity to reduce hospital staff time required to soothe and limit distress for patients with dementia who are hospitalized by way of activity aprons. Activity aprons will be purchased, students will train KDH staff on their use, and their effectiveness in calming patients will be tracked in the hospital's EHR.

Another student team doing clinicals at KDH in Madison is working with the local Boys & Girls club to develop and distribute "My Plan" suicide prevention cards and associated education for participants in summer youth programming. This project connects with ongoing hospital and community efforts to increase suicide prevention resources for Jefferson County.

Finally, a student team completing clinicals at Decatur County Memorial Hospital in Greensburg connected with that hospital's recent Community Health Needs Assessment and an identified need for better drug and alcohol education and prevention in Decatur County. They are working with an existing Greensburg Community Schools program for at-risk students to provide additional resources for students and parents around addictions risk factors and healthy alternatives to substance abuse.

All of these projects highlight how health professions learners can be of service to the communities where they train and take an active role in building partnerships between healthcare organizations and other elements of a community.

Dearborn CARE peer recovery project

East Indiana AHEC is excited to partner with the Dearborn County CARE (Community Action Recovery Effort) to bring a 5-day Peer Recovery Coach Certification course to Lawrenceburg in late August 2019. Participants in the course who have a lived experience of recovery will complete 32 hours of training that serves as the gateway to becoming a CAPRC I or II Certified Peer Recovery Coach through ICAADA, the statewide organization that oversees a variety of addictions treatment and behavioral health certifications in Indiana. Our experience working with a similar training group in Fayette County throughout 2018-2019 will allow us to assist this group of Southeastern Indiana trainees in not only completing the 32-hour Peer Recovery Coaching course but also in completing other certification requirements so that they are employable as Certified Peer Recovery Coaches and can be in the workforce providing valuable support to clients in settings such as hospital emergency departments, outpatient addictions recovery programs, and even employer-based wellness programs.

AHEC Scholars Community Healthcare Fellowship

Congratulations Year 2 EI-AHEC Scholars

East Indiana AHEC is proud to have 8 AHEC Scholars who have successfully completed Year 1 of this fellowship. Two of our Scholars were first to complete program year 1 for the entire state!! Across Indiana there are 71 AHEC Scholars who began Year 2 on July 1st. During Year 2 the Scholars will be in the progress of implementing a Community (Capstone) Project that is aimed toward enhancing the quality of health care and providing transformative team-based care within the region. Our 2018-2020 cohort is working in three small groups throughout our region. One group is focusing on school-based food insecurities in Richmond while another group is planning on collaborating with food banks / pantries in Columbus as an opportunity to provide diabetes prevention/education. The third group is focusing on addiction treatment through an interprofessional lens in Columbus. At the project's conclusion, scholars will synthesize and present their findings at the AHEC Scholars Showcase on April 17, 2020 in Indianapolis.



End of Year 1 service learning experiences at Richmond State Hospital and Margaret Mary Health's Family Fun Night

Welcome Year 1 EI-AHEC Scholars

We are in the final phase of recruiting for the 2019-2021 cohort of Scholars and have successfully met the goal of 15 participants. We are still accepting students that are in programs with a later start date. We have accepted 8 BSN students from IUE and IUPUC along with Butler Pharmacy, Frontier Nurse Midwifery, and IUPUI Public Health students. Six additional candidates will be interviewed via Zoom meeting, 5 of them coming from an ASN program and one coming from the Marion DO program. On Friday, September 6th Scholars will attend an in-person orientation in Batesville where they will meet fellow Scholars and get started on the didactic portion of the fellowship. They will also be broken into groups to begin their first field experience, a windshield / community survey. Just as with the previous cohort, they will be working towards implementing a Community Project in Year 2. If you have a project idea in your area that you would like to see carried out by Scholars students, feel free to reach out to Becky (becky.niese@eiahec.org) or Jeff (jeff.hartz@eiahec.org) .

East Indiana AHEC Welcomes New Board Members

As an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization that contracts with the Indiana AHEC Network to provide Area Health Education Center services for our region, East Indiana AHEC is governed by a board of directors made up of health professionals, educators, community leaders, and students from across our 14-county service region. At our July 2019 Board of Directors meeting, we were excited to welcome three new members to our Board of Directors.

Carrie James, PharmD, is the Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator at King's Daughters' Health in Madison. She is an enthusiastic preceptor of pharmacy students from multiple college programs and has contributed to EI-AHEC pipeline programming for many years with presentations on pharmacy careers.

Jonathan Isbill is a graduate student in the Ball State Master's program in Nutrition & Dietetics and a 2nd Year AHEC Scholars fellow. Originally from rural Bartholomew County, he is now completing his Dietetics Internship at Schneck Medical Center in Seymour. Jonathan has taken an active role in interprofessional health promotion and nutrition education efforts during his time at Ball State.

Gracie O'Neill is a senior BSN student at IUPUC and a 2nd Year AHEC Scholars Fellow. She is a resident of a rural southern Indiana community and has shown a commitment to caring for disadvantaged populations in rural communities both in her work as an AHEC Scholar and as an IUPUC nursing student.

East Indiana AHEC is always on the lookout for board member candidates from our 14 county service area who can help us maintain a diverse set of perspectives in terms of backgrounds, community connections, and experiences in education, healthcare, and community leadership. Please contact EI-AHEC Executive Director Jeff Hartz (jeff.hartz@eiahec.org) to learn more about board service opportunities.

Do you have a student learning opportunity or staff development project in collaboration with East Indiana AHEC that you'd like us to highlight in a future newsletter? We'd love to hear from you!

Send article ideas or photos to info@eiahec.org!