

East Indiana Area Health Education Center

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Continuing Our Mental Health First Aid Initiative

As part of our continuing local response to the Covid-19 pandemic, East Indiana AHEC team members were trained as Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) instructors in 2021. We can offer adult mental health first aid certification to health professions college students and working healthcare professionals as well as offer youth mental health first aid certification to local K-12 teachers and other youth workers. Additionally, we've supported MHFA instructor training for individuals working in several partner organizations to expand their capacity to offer MHFA both on their own and when partnering with an EI-AHEC staff member to co-teach this full-day training that teaches the skills to respond to the signs of mental illness and substance use.

So far, we have collaborated with IU East and IUPUC to offer MHFA training to BSN nursing students, with IUPUC making the training available to Nurse Practitioner students as well. Emergency Department staff at Decatur County Memorial Hospital and student health / student life staff at Earlham College have also received MHFA training through EI-AHEC. Finally, more than 40 Ripley County K-12 educators have received a youth-specific version of MHFA with funding support from Ripley County Court Services.

If your organization would like to talk about offering mental health first aid training for staff or students, please contact jeff.hartz@eiahec.org to start that conversation!



Earlham College staff after completing MHFA certification earlier this year.

Meet the 2021 - 2023 East Indiana AHEC Scholars

We are pleased to welcome a new cohort of 15 AHEC Scholars into the fellowship for 2021-2023!



Heather Anderson
Mercedes Bowling
Olivia Clark
Mackenzie Cook
Candace Cox
Taylor Clarston-Robbins
Lydia Gigrich
Anna Heilers
Emily Judd
Tom Loftus
Kayla May
Madison Miller
Logan Myers
Brittany Sexton
Alicia Tembo

Ivy Tech Madison, Nursing
IUPUI, Physical Therapy
Ivy Tech Madison, Nursing
IU East, Nursing
IU East, Nursing
Ivy Tech Madison, Nursing
Purdue, Nursing
IUPUI, MPH
Ball State, Speech Therapy
IUPUI, MPH
IU East, Nursing
IU East, Nursing
Ivy Tech Richmond, Nursing
Ivy Tech Richmond, Nursing
IUPUC, MSN NP

Pipeline Programs Fall Semester 2021 Update

While the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic put limitations on EI-AHEC pipeline health careers programming in fall 2021, we were still able to offer health careers exploration activities to more than 150 local high school students this fall.

At Decatur County Memorial Hospital, we supported job shadowing for Greensburg High School students that was able to proceed with a limited schedule despite Covid impacts.

At Franklin County High, Oldenburg Academy and Batesville High, we provided alternative health career activities at the schools for students whose job shadowing placements at Margaret Mary Health had to be paused due to Covid concerns.

Finally, EI-AHEC staff visited New Castle Career Center, Jac Cen Del High School, and IU East pre-nursing first year classes to provide health careers preparation workshops and class presentations.

We'd love to schedule a visit or activity with your pre-health careers pipeline students in the spring semester. Contact jenny.koors@eiahec.org for more information.



Batesville students take vital signs.

EI-AHEC Spotlight - Annie Swinney, MSN, RN



Annie Swinney with students at DCMH.

Since joining the EI-AHEC board of directors in July 2020, Annie Swinney has been a catalyst for activities with all types of AHEC learners - from high school pipeline programs to work with clinical students from a variety of professions to an advocate for staff development programming that impacts not just her own co-workers at Decatur County Memorial Hospital, but also at other hospitals across the region.

We are not the only ones who appreciate her commitment to clinical education - Annie was recently honored by Ivy Tech Community College with the Gerald I. Lamkin Award for Excellence in Instruction which is given annually to one Ivy Tech adjunct faculty member in the state. She was recognized for her outstanding work with Ivy Tech Columbus nursing students.



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!**