SC Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC)
Incorporating Interprofessional Education in Student Learning
June 2011
What is AHEC?

- Developed by Congress in 1971
  - To recruit, train, and retain a health professions workforce committed to underserved populations
  - Almost every state has an AHEC
    - 56 AHEC Program Offices (some states have more than one)
    - More than 200 centers
History of MUSC

- **1971**
  - MUSC was awarded funding as one of the 11 original federal AHEC programs.

- **1972**
  - The Statewide Family Practice Residency System was established by the State Legislature.

- **1974-1977**
  - S.C. Regional centers were formed
South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (SC AHEC)

Vision: 
- To be a leader in building a collaborative educational system designed to optimize the health of South Carolinians.

Mission: 
- To achieve excellence in health care through recruitment, retention, and education.

Core Values: 
- Excellence, Integrity, Effectiveness, Professionalism, Service, Efficiency
South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC)
4 Regional AHEC Centers & SC AHEC Program Office

- Four regional AHEC Centers and the SC AHEC Program Office serve the state and provide three major services to health care professionals and students.

  - **Health Career** programs that provide opportunities for culturally diverse high school and college students to become acquainted with a variety of health care careers.

  - **Health Professions** community-based education for undergraduate and graduate students that exposes students to the realities of clinical practice in rural and underserved areas and introduces them to communities as a focus for health improvements.

  - **Continuing Education** for health care professionals to assure their continued competency.
In addition, the SC AHEC is focused on

- **Recruitment and Retention**
  - Increase the supply and improve the distribution of primary care providers and other health care professionals through recruitment and retention programs

- **Graduate Medical Education**
  - Work collaboratively with South Carolina’s medical schools to educate and retain medical students
  - Facilitate the recruitment and retention of qualified, diverse medical students and residents to South Carolina
  - Educate qualified, competent, community-responsive physicians
Health Professions Student Services (HPS)

Activities Include…

- Interface with clinical programs at SC academic institutions
- Identification of preceptors and clinical rotation sites
- Assistance with housing
- Student orientation to the community
- Clinical site visits
- Technology support
- Assistance with community-based projects
- Network with community health agencies
- National Health Service Corp Ambassadors
- Facilitate Interdisciplinary/Interprofessional Programs
HPS Programs

And where do the students come from?

- Medical University of South Carolina
- University of South Carolina
- South Carolina State University
- Clemson University
- Winthrop University
- Coker College
- A.T. Still School of Osteopathic Medicine
Interdisciplinary/Interprofessional Programs

- South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training (SCRIPT)
- Interprofessional Service Learning Projects (ISLP)
- Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH)
- Rural Interprofessional Student Experience (RISE)
South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training

- Program began in 1993
  Goals are to:
  - prepare health professions students to deliver culturally acceptable care in rural settings from an interdisciplinary, community focused perspective.
  - learn that rural health care presents unique challenges as well as opportunities for a positive, high-quality lifestyle, both personally and professionally.

- 17 year run until 2010 - 866 total participants
- The students were from 14 health professions disciplines and 7 South Carolina universities.
- SCRIPT program is currently taking a hiatus due to state budget cuts
866 SCRIPT Health Profession Students

- Nursing 228
- Medicine 182
- Pharmacy 150
- Health Administration 60
- Physician Assistant 52
- Physical Therapy 33
- Public Health 11
- Speech Pathology 32
- Occupational Therapy 26
- Dental 24
- Nutrition 24
- Advanced Practice Nursing 24
- Social Work 14
- Nurse Midwifery 6
Until our paths cross again....
Interprofessional Service Learning Project (ISLP)

- Goal is “to provide health professions students with collaborative, interprofessional learning experiences designed to increase their knowledge and skills in health promotion/disease prevention.”

- Partnered with MUSC Junior Doctors of Health (JDOH) Program
ISLP

- 3 Didactic Sessions
  - Team Work & Community Health
  - Socio-cultural Influences on Health
  - Childhood Obesity

- 3 JDOH Sessions
  - Nutrition
  - Exercise
  - Lifestyle Choices
Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH)

- Partners include
  - SC Primary Health Care Association
  - SC Office of Rural Health
  - SC AHEC
  - SC Department of Health & Environmental Control Office of Primary Care
Objectives

- to provide meaningful student experiences in community-based primary health care settings
- to facilitate the development of culturally competent, community-responsive health care professionals and promote interest in serving medically underserved and vulnerable populations
SEARCH

- Individual SEARCH

- Interdisciplinary SEARCH
Rural Interprofessional Student Experience (R.I.S.E)

- A 3-week pre-clinical experience in a rural hospital setting to help the transition from didactic education to the clinical phase through observational learning.
- Takes advantage of SCHOOLS videoconferencing network placed in regional AHEC centers & 20 rural hospitals.

Students learn about:
- the healthcare delivery system
- trials and tribulations affecting the delivery of care in rural communities.
SCHOOLS Videoconferencing Network

- AHEC Program Office & Regional Centers
- Rural Hospital SCHOOLS Sites
- Undergraduate Colleges & Universities
- Medical University of South Carolina
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