

indiana AHEC!



partnering for the next generation of Hoosier health professionals

spring 2004

Workforce on the Wabash West Central Indiana AHEC Targets Hoosier Health Professionals in 2004

To nail the landing, gymnasts focus sharply on their target. And at West Central Indiana AHEC (WCI-AHEC), our target is the educational needs of our health workforce and trainees. In 2004, we want to “nail the landing” with programs and activities that sustain our health workforce and cultivate tomorrow’s health professionals.

panel of WCI-AHEC continuing education activities that draw hundreds of area health professionals across many disciplines. Other recent and scheduled activities are addressing:

- geriatric assessment
- cardiology update
- ethics in health care
- research and practice
- wound care
- elder care

Meanwhile, the Vigo County Drug Task Force’s day-long workshop, *Can You Spell Methamphetamine?* brought together professionals dealing with the drug problem from many perspectives. It was so well received that a phase 2 program is planned for the fall. And a nursing assessment program helps licensed personnel not currently working to



Student nurses took blood pressure readings at one of the Mini Medical School sessions.

Continuing Education

Indiana phlebotomy trainees also learned about targets at *Tricks for Great Sticks*, a training program hosted by WCI-AHEC. This program and an upcoming program on regulation of office laboratories are designed to address pressing continuing education needs identified by our health care partners. They are part of a

refresh their skills and re-enter the health workforce.

The WCI-AHEC is also hosting and facilitating distance learning programs to meet targeted CE needs. Satellite downlinks, educational programs from the Indiana Higher Education Telecommunications System (IHETS) and live broadcast of a perinatal

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A Word from the Director

The year 2004 has already proved to be a very exciting year for Indiana AHEC with many new additions:

- Indiana AHEC has a new Center halfway through its planning year. We welcome the Southeast/South Central Indiana AHEC.
- The Program Office has a new Associate Director, Jonathan Barclay.
- Dr. Radhika Rajgopal, former Associate Director for the Program Office, welcomed her first daughter, Kashvi, born on February 16, 2004.
- The Northwest Indiana AHEC announces the appointment of a new Interim Director, Lynn Olszewski.
- New areas of the state of Indiana will be represented by new centers in Northeast Indiana (located in Fort Wayne) and North Central Indiana (in Logansport.) Both centers will begin their planning years in September of this year.
- Indiana AHEC has submitted a new proposal to HRSA for funding of programs from 9/1/2004 through 8/31/2007.
- Look for the new AHEC display at statewide and regional meetings and conferences.

And lastly, I would like to introduce myself as the new Director of the Indiana Area Health Education Center Program Office. It is my privilege to have the



opportunity to lead the Indiana AHEC. My first few months here have placed me on a steep learning curve, meeting many people and being introduced to many organizations that are new to me. As I travel around the state, I hope we will have a chance to discuss your ideas of how AHEC can best meet its goals of improving the recruitment, distribution, retention, and quality of healthcare professionals in underserved areas throughout Indiana.

James R. Springer, Ed.D.
Indiana AHEC Program Director

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Special Thanks

The Indiana AHEC owes a debt of gratitude to Stephen P. Bogdewic, Ph.D., Interim Director of the Indiana AHEC Program Office during 2002-03. During this critical stage of development, Dr. Bogdewic added leadership of the Indiana AHEC to his already busy list of responsibilities, including the positions of Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Family Medicine, Assistant Dean for Primary Care Education for the Indiana University School of Medicine, as well as continuing to add to his national reputation as a medical educator and faculty development expert. Dr. Bogdewic's expertise will not be lost to the Indiana AHEC program as he continues to serve on the Advisory Board and the Executive Committee.



Indiana Minority Health Coalition Celebrates 10 Years

This year the Indiana Minority Health Coalition and Executive Director Stephanie DeKemper celebrate the organization's 10th anniversary. For the past decade, IMHC has pursued meaningful solutions to the health care challenges that face Indiana's minority populations. The growth of IMHC infrastructure and programming over the past decade was demonstrated at a celebration luncheon held in Indianapolis on April 30 and testifies to the creativity and dedication of the staff, volunteers, and partners who support IMHC activities and accomplishments.

The Indiana AHEC program is proud to add its enthusiastic "Congratulations" to those offered by so many around the state who value the important work of IMHC. We look forward to expanding our partnership with IMHC to strengthen the diversity and cultural competence of Indiana's health workforce and reduce health disparities in Indiana.

Congratulations also to the Vigo County Minority Health Coalition, honored as IMHC Local Minority Health Coalition of the Year. The Vigo County coalition operates in the region also served by the West Central Indiana AHEC.

Name the Newsletter Contest!

We'd like your ideas for naming the Indiana Area Health Education Centers newsletter. Submit entries at www.ahec.iupui.edu/contest.htm by August 31, 2004. See website for details and official entry rules.

The winner will be notified by mail and receive free AHEC gear!

"Wabash" -- continued from page 1

outcomes program have strengthened skills among our region's first responders, community public health officials, as well as Critical Access Hospitals around the state.

In an exciting initiative to strengthen community response systems, WCI-AHEC is working with partners throughout the state to identify locations of need and candidates for training on automated external defibrillators (AED). Those partners include the Indiana State Department of Health, the Indiana State Police, the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency, the Indiana Rural Health Association, St. Vincent Health System, and Hoosier Uplands.

Outreach and Clinical Education

Cultivating interest and preparation for health careers among pre-college students is so important to building tomorrow's west central Indiana health workforce that a new position has been added at the WCI-AHEC to work exclusively in this area. Clinical education and enrichment experiences are also offered and designed to strengthen primary care skills and interest among current health professions students. Current-year WCI-AHEC activities and partnerships in these areas include:

- 8th-grade students from three surrounding counties, in recognition of National Nurses Week, visit the Landsbaum Center for Health Education, participate in a demonstration of the Center's unique Human Patient Simulator and interact with nurses volunteering time to inspire and educate these students.
- Middle school and high school students learn and do advanced science in the hands-on summer

Middle School Science and Health and the High School Honors research enrichment programs.

Promotion and preparation for these exciting programs is fully underway this spring.

- Students who plan to pursue education in the health professions will work with local not-for-profit and government groups in a new service-learning partnership with Indiana University.
- Second- and third-year pre-medical students spend a minimum of 20 hours per week shadowing a physician in private practice or with medical school faculty and researchers as part of a summer enrichment program.
- Family practice residents experience rigorous rural health training during the Midwest Center for Rural Health's Rural Training Track.

Community health education and information dissemination complements the critical patient education and disease prevention efforts of our health professionals. WCI-AHEC community health education activities include:

- a nine-session Mini Medical School, averaging 90 attendees per session;
- community child lead screening day;
- health care professional awareness program and follow-up tools partnering with the Indiana Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Agency through the CHANCES for Indiana Youth Program;
- a newly organized obesity prevention initiative.

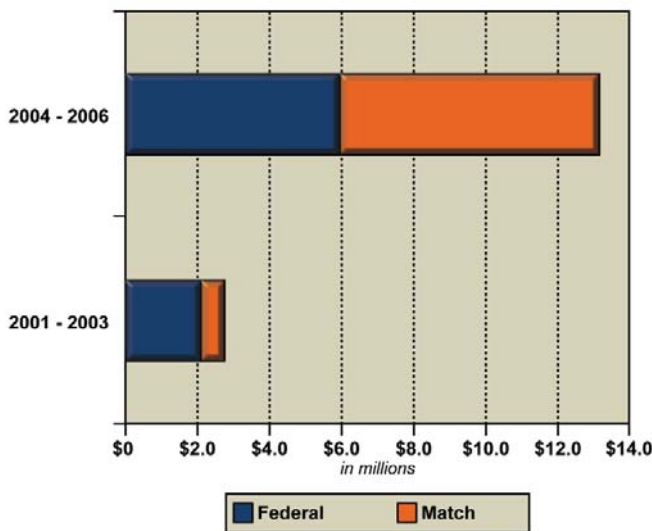
2004 is shaping up to be another productive and successful year for WCI-AHEC and our program partners — making an impact in Indiana!

LOOKING FORWARD

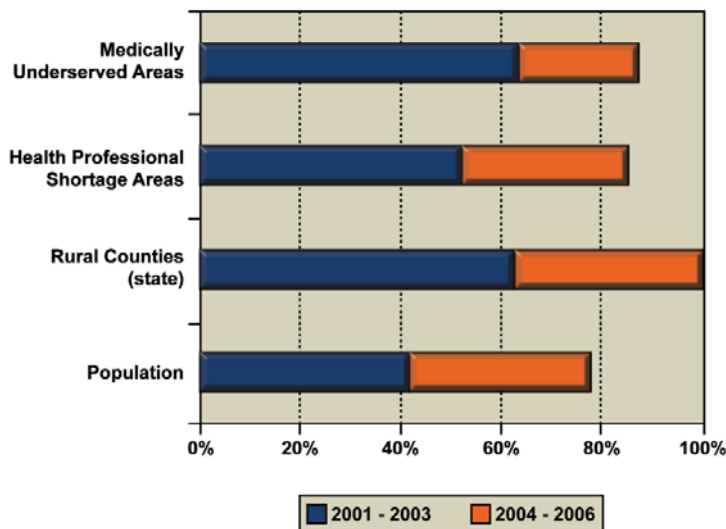
The Indiana AHEC Program has submitted its 190-page proposal to seek continued federal funding to support three more years of operation - September 2004 through August 2007! The Indiana AHEC Program was initially funded from September 2001 through August 2004, through a cooperative agreement with the Health Resources Services Administration's Bureau of Health Professions. Partners include the Indiana University School of Medicine and its Regional Centers for Medical Education,

Indiana State University, and Hoosier Uplands. The new funding cycle will include the addition of new partnering host institutions, including the Logansport Memorial Hospital, Cardinal Health Systems in Muncie, and Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne.

HRSA expects to announce Basic/Core AHEC cooperative agreement awards on September 1, 2004. Here are some highlights comparing the two funding cycles:



Increases in Indiana Service Areas Covered



Southeast/South Central Indiana AHEC Opens

Indiana's third Area Health Education Center was opened in the fall of 2003 in Bedford, Indiana! The Southeast/South Central Indiana AHEC (SE/SCI-AHEC) is being established by the Hoosier Uplands Economic Development Corporation's Strategic Development and Consulting Services Division under the guidance of Steve Adams. The SE/SCI-AHEC, as a community-based non-profit organization, has forged successful partnerships within the 20-county Southeast/South Central region by creating an advisory board to guide the development of programs to address the unique needs of the region. Serving as the Advisory Board Chair is Ms. Jennifer Embree from Dunn Memorial Hospital in Lawrence County; Ms. Linda Codey from the Family Health Clinics of Clark and Floyd Counties serves as the Vice-Chair; and Mr. Joseph Stephens from Community Mental Health Center, Inc., in Dearborn County is the Secretary.

In October 2003, Shawna Girgis was appointed as the Director of the SE/SCI-AHEC. Ms. Girgis is a graduate of Indiana University where she earned a Master of Social Work degree. She also serves as the Associate Director of Strategic Development and Consulting Services at Hoosier Uplands where she has been employed since May of 1999. Ms. Girgis's areas of expertise include coalition building; grant writing; and program development, implementation, and evaluation. During her tenure at Hoosier Uplands Ms. Girgis successfully developed the Health Care Professional's Rural Training Program. She has also worked in the areas of health promotion; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention;

see "SE/SC AHEC" -- page 6



from left to right: Laura Moore, Program Coordinator; Shawna Girgis, Director; and Nikki Smith, Administrative Assistant

Public Health Community Practices Survival Skills at IPHA Annual Conference

Congratulations to Indiana AHEC Program partner Indiana Public Health Association on a successful annual conference, *Public Health Survivor: Staying in the Game*. Indiana AHEC staffers Shawna Girgis, M.S.W., Director, SE/SCI-AHEC; James R. Springer, Ed.D., Director; and Jonathan Barclay, M.A., Associate Director, both of the Indiana AHEC Program Office, joined 169 other public health stakeholders in productive and insightful sessions scheduled during the May 10-12 conference, which was held on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette. Health workforce planning was a significant theme of this year's agenda, which also included Ms. Girgis's update on SE/SCI-AHEC.

Guest presenter Joan P. Cioffi, Ph.D., Senior Service Fellow, Public Health Practice Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, noted that speed, accountability and flexibility are the new watchwords for the public health workforce in the post-9/11 era. Dr. Cioffi also highlighted the importance of integrated learning systems and technology solutions for Indiana's public health workforce, a strategy echoed by Virginia A. Caine, M.D., American Public Health Association President and Director of the Marion County Health Department.

In her remarks Dr. Caine also called on conference attendees to aggressively address the problem of health disparities. Dr. Caine echoed the AHEC's commitment to a health workforce whose diversity strengthens its service to minority and other disadvantaged populations, noting that by 2050 the Hispanic population is projected to increase from about 12% to more than 25% of all Hoosiers.

Reflecting Dr. Caine's focus on minority and disadvantaged populations was a poster presented by Scott E. Renshaw, M.D., Junior Faculty, Underserved Medicine Fellowship in Faculty

Development, Indiana University Department of Family Medicine. The poster described an innovative new Service Learning course that has been developed and directed by Deanna R. Willis, M.D., M.B.A., Assistant Professor of Family Medicine; Director of Affiliate Faculty, Department of Family Medicine; and Medical Director of Quality and Medical Management, IU Medical Group. The course offers college credits for students to learn by immersing themselves in a service project aimed at addressing issues of the medically underserved. Students begin their service by job shadowing health professionals and then undertake a service project based on an identified community or clinic need where they are serving.

The course has demonstrated strong impact on the beliefs, perceptions, and intentions of students, enhancing both interest in health professions as well as exposure to meaningful experiences with underserved populations. The West Central Indiana AHEC (WCI-AHEC) partnered to sponsor three students in the spring of 2004 in the Terre Haute area. One student served at Union Hospital addressing hepatitis B infection by preparing presentations for high school students regarding the dangers and risks associated

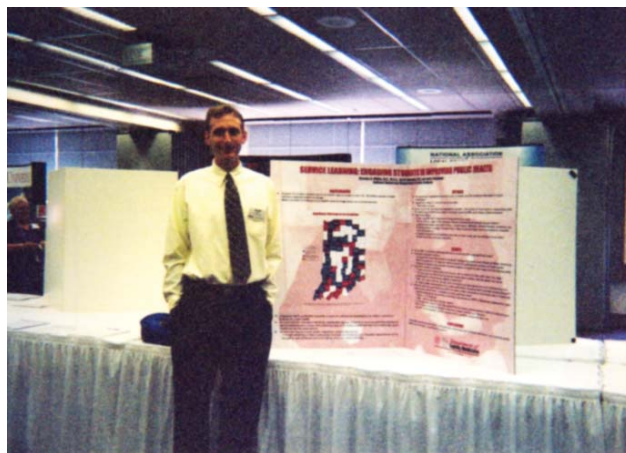
with body tattoos and piercing. The Vigo County Health Department provided two students with the opportunity to prepare a billboard aimed at increasing lead poisoning awareness in the community. Because the course is offered through the Indiana Consortium, the AHECs throughout the state could play an important role in sponsoring students and facilitating partnerships with their local colleges and universities to offer the course to area students.

In his keynote address, Indiana State Health Commissioner Gregory A. Wilson, M.D., reviewed several developments of interest to AHEC stakeholders. Data collection and integration efforts such as the Indiana Health Information Exchange and continued development of geographic information systems (GIS) capacity offer new tools for AHEC to assess needs and respond precisely. Dr. Wilson's affirmation that "all public health is local" also reflects a model of community-based planning and collaboration that AHEC partners can respond to enthusiastically.

Dr. Wilson also summarized the current draft of an important planning document, *A Community Health Improvement Plan 2004-2007*, a collaborative project of the Indiana Medicine

and Public Health Initiative. Several Indiana AHEC program personnel contributed to the plan, which articulates goals that cut across key AHEC missions and values, including enhanced health professions education, workforce diversity, partnership, needs assessment, and community-centered action for health. Discussion of the Plan was lively at several breakout sessions following Dr. Wilson's address.

For more on the IPHA and the annual conference, please contact the IPHA office, on the Web at www.InPHA.org.



IU Department of Family Medicine Fellow Scott E. Renshaw, M.D., presented a poster session describing a collaborative service-learning program in health professions at the IPHA annual conference. WCI-AHEC helped sponsor three student participants in the spring 2004 program. Deanna Willis, M.D., and Kellie Speckman co-authored with Dr. Renshaw.

Northwest Indiana AHEC Appoints New Director

The Northwest Center for Medical Education, the “home base” for the Northwest Indiana AHEC (NWI-AHEC), announces the appointment of Lynn Thoma Olszewski as NWI-AHEC Interim Director effective May 1, 2004.

Lynn is a graduate of Clarke College, Dubuque, Iowa, where she completed her undergraduate work in biology and nursing. In addition, she received a Master of Science in Administration with an emphasis on health care from the University of Notre Dame.

Most recently, she has served as the Vice President for Quality

Management at Ancilla Systems in Hobart, Indiana. With Ancilla completing the sale of its one remaining hospital, Lynn has accepted the challenge of leading the continued development of the NWI-AHEC.

NWI-AHEC has been under the able interim leadership of Drs. Pat Bankston and Virgil Hofstetzer, both of whom will continue supervisory and mentoring roles with Lynn.

Naomi Onomakpome, Administrative Assistant for the NWI-AHEC, continues to provide valuable support and stability to the changing NWI-AHEC office.

DIVERSITY

Indiana AHEC Builds Collaborative Bridge with Martin University

Martin University recently collaborated with Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) on a two-million dollar proposal to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) designed to enhance the research infrastructure at Martin University.

Martin University, as Indiana's only predominantly minority-serving institution of higher education in Indiana, is uniquely positioned to develop academic leadership in research aimed at understanding and eliminating health disparities among minority and other underserved populations. Increased science and research capacity at Martin can also serve to strengthen the academic preparation of minority undergraduates who may be interested in advanced health professions training, a goal of the Indiana Area Health Education Centers (IN-AHEC) Program.

The IN-AHEC Program played a unique role in facilitating the collaboration between Martin University and IUPUI. One of the goals of the IN-AHEC is to improve the diversity of the health professions workforce in the state of Indiana. Early discussions between Martin University and IN-AHEC leadership solidified the potential for collaboration between the two organizations and opened the door for collaboration with IUPUI. The IN-AHEC program office, housed within the IU School of Medicine, supported the Martin University proposal by linking Martin University with Mark Brenner, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education at IUPUI.

“This is one example of how the AHEC program can serve Indiana by being the bridge between programs and organizations with common missions,” says IN-AHEC Program Director, James R. Springer, Ed.D. “I think this project has a good chance of being funded, but even if it isn't, it has been worth the effort just to develop a sound mutual working relationship among AHEC, IUPUI, and Martin University,” he added.

Angela Holloway, M.H.A., Community Affairs Coordinator, IN-AHEC Program Office, provided coordination and leadership in the development of the proposal.

Meet Your Friends at Indiana AHEC



Meeting in Indianapolis on April 5 were Lynn Thoma Olszewski, RN, MSA, Northwest AHEC; Donald O. Schoolcraft, MBA, West Central AHEC; Becky Lowry, Proposed North Central AHEC; Shawna Girgis, MSW, Southeast/South Central AHEC; James R. Springer, EdD, Program Office; Kathleen O'Connell, PhD, RN, Proposed Northeast AHEC.

A Look at...

James R. Springer, Ed.D.
Director, AHEC Program Office



As the founding President and CEO of the Grand Rapids Medical and Research Center for Health Professions (and the Community Dean for the Grand Rapids campus of the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State University) Dr. James

R. Springer is accustomed to the challenges associated with new organizations, interdisciplinary medical and health professions education, and community partnerships. "The development of a statewide effort to improve the distribution, diversity, and quality of health professionals expands upon my previous experiences in developing integrated teams of healthcare professionals," stated Springer in a recent interview. "I am impressed by the strength of existing Indiana programs that share many interests and goals of AHEC; our job is to partner with these successful programs and fill gaps that exist across the state."

Dr. Springer earned his doctorate from Western Michigan University and is licensed as a psychologist. In addition to his administrative roles he was a Professor of Psychiatry at Michigan State University and the Director of Medical Student Psychiatric Education for the College of Human Medicine and the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Indiana Congressional Delegation Supports AHEC

Strong Indiana Congressional support for continued funding of AHEC programs was evident in recent AHEC leadership visits to Washington's Capitol Hill. As part of their attendance at the National AHEC Organization Program Directors' Meeting, James R. Springer, Ed.D., Director, Indiana AHEC Program Office, and Terrell W. Zollinger, Dr.P.H., AHEC Evaluation Director, visited the offices of Senators Evan Bayh (Indiana - D) and Richard Lugar (Indiana - R) as well as the offices of Representatives Baron Hill (9th District - D), Julia Carson (7th District - D), and Dan Burton (5th District - R). Several legislators offered to write letters of support and to join with their colleagues from other states in continuing to support the national efforts of Area Health Education Centers.

Bankston Appointed Interim Director for NW Center for Medical Education

Patrick W. Bankston, Ph.D., has been appointed Interim Director of the Northwest Center for Medical Education effective August 1, 2004. Dr. Bankston replaces William Baldwin, Ph.D., who is retiring.

Dr. Bankston has been instrumental in the development and support of the Northwest Indiana AHEC, serving as

interim director for several months and supporting the continued close working relationship between AHEC and the Indiana University Northwest campus.

Best wishes to Dr. Bankston as he assumes this important Indiana University School of Medicine and northwest Indiana role.

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education promotion; fatherhood initiatives; and emergency preparedness. Ms. Girgis also serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Rural Health Association.

In February of this year, both Laura Moore and Nikki Smith joined the SE/SCI-AHEC team. Ms. Moore is the Program Coordinator for the SE/SCI-AHEC and earned a Master's Degree in Education from Indiana University. For the past several years, Ms. Moore has been active in the education field in a variety of roles. In her positions at Indiana University (IUB) as

YouthVoice.Net Project Manager and English Education Coordinator, she created a service-learning and advocacy website, trained teachers to use the website, presented at national conferences, built partnerships with schools, and served as liaison between the School of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences. Ms. Moore also has experience as a high school English teacher, college instructor, online elementary curriculum writer, and paralegal. Ms. Smith is the Administrative Assistant for the SE/SCI-AHEC and is a native of Mitchell, Indiana.

The SE/SCI-AHEC is currently in a planning year and is working toward program implementation that will provide access to continuing education for health care professionals, health career awareness and outreach programs to secondary students, the development of mentoring programs with academic institutions for college students, as well as, other programs to address the identified health care professional needs within the region's 20 county-service area.

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