

INDIANA AHEC!



spring 2003

Building Healthy Communities through Community Partnerships

volume 1 number 1

A Word from the Director

Welcome to the first edition of *Indiana AHEC!* Many of you who are receiving this newsletter played an important role in bringing an Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to Indiana. It is with our great appreciation for your hard work and perseverance that we dedicate this first issue to you. This quarterly newsletter will serve to keep you abreast of the exciting activities of our new AHEC.

A lion's share of the credit for helping make the Indiana AHEC

a reality must go to Stephen J. Jay, M.D., Indiana University School of Medicine, School of Public Health. Dr. Jay led the team to develop the federal grant that provides a majority of our support and also served as the AHEC's first director. He has given us a splendid foundation upon which to build the program and we are indebted to him. This past August, Dr. Jay turned the reins of the AHEC over to the Department of Family Medicine, where the AHEC Program will be housed.

As the Acting Director, it is my responsibility to recruit a leadership team to fulfill the obligations of our current grant and seek new sources of support to sustain the Indiana AHEC. I am honored to serve in this role and I encourage you to contact me personally with any questions you may have.

---Stephen P. Bogdewic, Ph.D.
Acting Executive Director

Indiana AHEC Program Office

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What the Heck is an AHEC?

A healthy Indiana needs healthy communities. It also needs health care professionals located in all areas of the state—from the inner cities to the rural neighborhoods—prepared to help educate citizens about health problems and issues and provide quality service. Even though there are over 180 AHECs in 46 states, AHEC is new to Indiana. An AHEC is a network of regional “centers” that are coordinated through a central “program” office. Each regional center is locally established and designed to assess and meet the needs of the underserved citizens in that region. The mission of each regional AHEC is to create academic and community partnerships that accomplish three primary goals:

1. Improve the quality of health care professional education,
2. Improve the distribution of health care professionals in underserved areas, and
3. Improve the diversity of the health care workforce.

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And Thanks Go To...

The effort to create an Indiana AHEC program brings to fruition many years of collaboration and planning. Here is a partial listing of the many people and organizations that we would like to thank for their contributions to this effort.

Organizational Support

Indiana University Department of Public Health
Indiana State Department of Health
Indiana State Medical Association
Indiana Commission for Higher Education
Indiana State Nurses Association
Indiana Academy of Family Practice
Indiana Hospital and Health Association
Indiana Public Health Association
Indiana Rural Health Association
Indiana University
Purdue University

Key Consultants

James Leist, Ph.D.
Richard Wansley, Ph.D.,
Director, Illinois AHEC
Steve Adams, Hoosier Uplands
David Miller, Hoosier Uplands

AHEC Champions

Cheryl G. Sullivan, Vice Chancellor, External Affairs, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Doug Wasitis, Vice President, Sagamore Associates, Washington, D.C.
Douglas B. McKeag, M.D., M.S., American United Life Professor; Chairman, Department of Family Medicine; and
Director of IU Center for Sports Medicine
Bruce B. Melchert, Vice President, Government Affairs, Clarian

Proposal Development Task Force

Stephen J. Jay, M.D., Indiana University School of Medicine, School of Public Health
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William W. Baldwin, Ph.D., Northwest Center for Medical Education
James R. Buechler, M.D., Midwest Center for Rural Health
Kyle Del Colletti, Terre Haute Center for Medical Education (deceased)
Roy W. Geib, Ph.D., Terre Haute Center for Medical Education
Joanne M. Greer, M.S., formerly with Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Family Medicine
Beverly E. Hill, Ed.D., Indiana University School of Medicine, Division of Continuing Medical Education (retired)
Virgil D. Hoftiezer, Ph.D., Northwest Center for Medical Education
Hazel Katter, R.N., H.S.D., Indiana State Department of Health (retired)
Richard D. Kiofsky, M.D., Indiana University School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine
M. Elise Papke, M.P.H., Indiana University School of Medicine, Department of Public Health
Sarah C. Snider, M.B.A., Midwest Center for Rural Health
Kathy Visovatti Weaver, R.N., M.P.A., J.D., Indiana State Department of Health
Terrell W. Zollinger, Dr.P.H., Indiana University School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine

Legislative Support

Senator Evan Bayh and Senator Richard Lugar, Congresswoman Julia Carson, Congressman Baron P. Hill and Congressman Pete Visclosky provided letters of support that were included in the proposal and strengthened our cause. Additionally, the Governor's office applauded the efforts to bring AHEC funds to Indiana and communicated support for the program.

How Does an AHEC Work?

Each AHEC, while working toward a common goal of improving the distribution, supply, and diversity of the workforce and quality of services provided in the region, may look different since the needs of one community or region will differ from another. That is why a local Advisory Board is so important. Elected members, representing health care providers and health care consumers in the region, establish goals and priorities for the Center based upon the assessment of local needs. An AHEC's Advisory Board works closely with the Program Office to assure the AHEC's alignment with the overall state program.

West Central Indiana Area Health Education Center Up and Running

The first operational center in the state, the West Central Indiana Area Health Education Center (WCI-AHEC), was established under the guidance of interim director Roy Geib, Ph.D. In April 2003, Donald O. Schoolcraft was appointed the permanent director of WCI-AHEC. Mr. Schoolcraft has over 25 years of experience serving diverse medical institutions, primarily in Indiana. He has stated, "In my experience, the AHEC is the first program that looks at the entire spectrum of healthcare manpower and ties all the loose strings together." Among its early accomplishments, WCI-AHEC successfully forged partnerships with the Indiana University School of Medicine, Terre Haute Center for Medical Education and School of Nursing to sponsor continuing education and distance learning programs. Educational pipeline development programs through the WCI-AHEC include middle school science/health career demonstration programs, a regional baccalaureate/medical degree (BA/MD) program, biomedical research experience, and a summer professional shadowing program among others. Additionally, WCI-AHEC has sponsored topical workshops, continuing medical education programs, and distance learning programs for physicians, family practice residents, nurses, and nurse practitioners. Given the immediate focus on bioterrorism, WCI-AHEC has facilitated discussions on bioterrorism preparation and smallpox inoculation training along with quality-oriented topics.



Donald O. Schoolcraft

What the Heck is an AHEC?

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In accomplishing these goals, the AHEC can improve the quality of health care, especially primary and preventative care. However, for Indiana citizens, AHEC would add one additional goal to the above list. While access to quality health care is fundamental to a person's physical well-being, people also desire well-being in all aspects of their life—physical, mental, as well as spiritual. While immediately focusing on workforce development, a long-term strategy of the Indiana AHEC will be to develop partnerships across the state to create a whole "quality of life" initiative for the people of Indiana.

Second AHEC Established

The second AHEC, the Northwest Indiana (NWI-AHEC), has recently been established. Located on the Indiana University Northwest campus, Center for Medical Education in Gary, this AHEC will serve a nine-county region in northwest Indiana. With guidance from the interim director, Virgil Hoftiezer, Ph.D., the NWI-AHEC will develop and implement programs targeted toward the fairly complex and unique needs of the region, while addressing the main goals of AHEC.

Recently, an extensive search culminated in the hiring of an Associate Director for the NWI-AHEC. Robin H. Ledyard, MD, MPH is a family practitioner with broad experience in clinical medicine, medical education, and public health. Robin says her interest in developing AHEC in Northwest Indiana stems from her desire to develop better healthcare systems for underserved populations. Welcome Robin!

News and Notes

- ◆ Nominations to the Indiana AHEC Advisory Committee are being sought from key stakeholders around the state. The Advisory Committee would include representatives from the state and local legislators, leaders from the private and public sectors, and the health and education communities to provide oversight to the strategic planning, policy, and activities of the statewide AHEC in Indiana.
- ◆ The central Program Office for the Indiana AHEC has been established within the Indiana University School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine on the Indianapolis campus. The Program Office serves to coordinate and facilitate the development of AHECs around the state. The Program Office personnel include Stephen P. Bogdewic, Ph.D., Acting Executive Director; Radhika Rajgopal, Ph.D., Associate Director; Angela M. Holloway, M.H.A., Assistant Director for Academic and Community Affairs; and, Terri Wiese, Senior Administrative Secretary.
- ◆ The website for the Indiana AHEC Program Office is now online! The website provides an update on the development of regional AHECs and the formation of essential partnerships around the state. Please go to www.ahec.iupui.edu to visit our website and learn more about Indiana AHEC, including program announcements, funding opportunities, potential partnerships and a whole lot more!

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A Look at...

Stephen P. Bogdewic, Ph.D.

His 11 year experience in the North Carolina AHEC taught Steve Bogdewic just how much a committed



group of caring partners could enhance the lives of the underserved. Since coming to Indiana in 1991 it has been his dream to see an AHEC develop in Indiana. As the Vice Chair of Family Medicine, and Assistant Dean for Primary Care Education, Steve hopes to do all that he can to build the Indiana AHEC into a network that will change forever the services and opportunities available to the underserved people of the state.