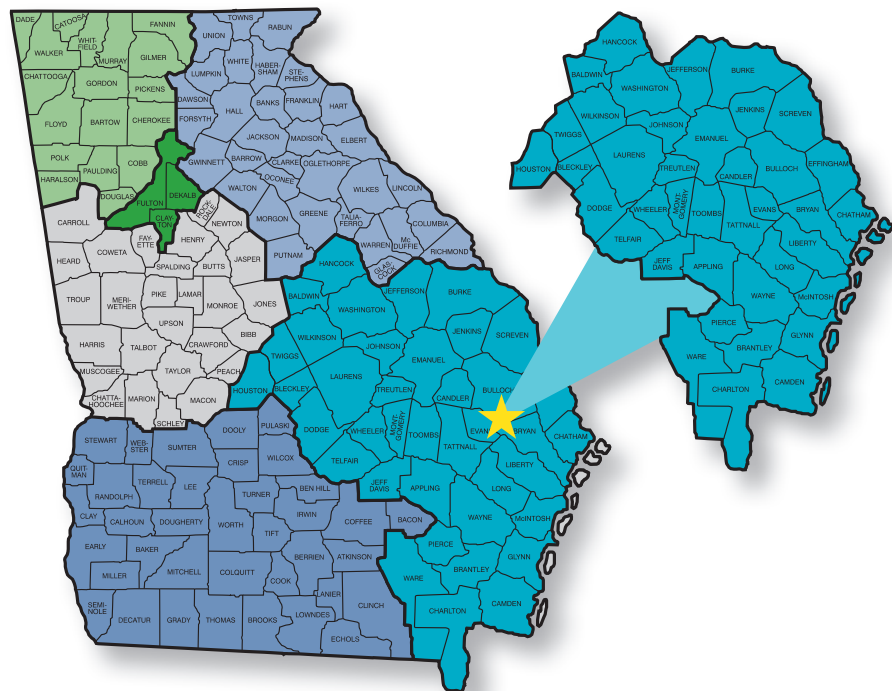


RECRUITING...TRAINING...RETAINING

We persistently track the healthcare professions students who trained in our region to determine if they have returned to practice in our communities. To date, we have identified 501 students who are practicing in 30 of our 39 counties with most of them residing in rural counties. The majority of these healthcare providers are MDs, DOs, PAs, Pharmacists, Dentists, Dental Assistants, RNs, APRNs, CRNAs, and Physical Therapists. In addition, MCAHEC brought services and education to all 39 counties (100%) this fiscal year and 38 out of 39 counties (97%) over the previous two fiscal years.



COUNTIES SERVED

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Appling | Emanuel | Montgomery |
| Baldwin | Evans | Pierce |
| Bleckley | Glynn | Screven |
| Brantley | Hancock | Tattnall |
| Bryan | Houston | Telfair |
| Bulloch | Jeff Davis | Toombs |
| Burke | Jefferson | Treutlen |
| Camden | Jenkins | Twiggs |
| Candler | Johnson | Ware |
| Charlton | Laurens | Washington |
| Chatham | Liberty | Wayne |
| Dodge | Long | Wheeler |
| Effingham | McIntosh | Wilkinson |

Thank You

To Our Healthcare Providers and Essential Workers



Supporting the recruitment, education, training and retention of a diverse health professions workforce throughout southeast Georgia.

Magnaolia Coastlands Area Health Education Center (MCAHEC) is a community-driven, non-profit organization and through our vision, mission, values and guiding principles, we assist our communities in building and sustaining the healthcare workforce to meet the region's healthcare needs. For over 20 years, we have served 39 counties in southeast Georgia from our administrative office in Statesboro and through an affiliation agreement with Georgia Southern University. We are a part of the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network with the State Program Office housed at Augusta University, Medical College of Georgia. We are joined by five other regional AHECs in the State, all working toward a special emphasis with the rural and underserved areas. All of our 39 counties are considered medically underserved, and 34 out of our 39 counties are considered rural. MCAHEC covers the largest region in the State. We accomplish our goals through numerous partnerships and collaborations that we have developed over the years and include healthcare providers, health professions students, academic institutions, state and federal agencies, community organizations and legislative leaders. Without our partners, we would not be able to accomplish our mission of recruiting, training and retaining students and diverse healthcare professionals in our region and the State; particularly in our rural and underserved communities. Our team and MCAHEC Board are persistent and very passionate about making a difference in the healthcare career pipeline, and with the ultimate long-term goal of improving the health of our communities within Georgia.

MAGNOLIA COASTLANDS AHEC 2021

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Assistant Professor
Health Informatics Program Coordinator

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Note From Our EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Another year passes as we all adjust to the new normal as an outcome of COVID-19. Never before have we experienced such challenges and deep losses and yet developed

new strength and determination to provide services and education to students and healthcare professionals in our region. Numerous clinical rotations, housing accommodations, continuing education and health career programs were suspended, cancelled or postponed. And, as we all learned to work remotely, we found new and innovative ways to deliver services to our academic and community partners. Video conferencing became a way of life and how to connect with others. Many of our students also volunteered through public health efforts such as contact tracing, providing support with vaccine services as well as health education. With public health at center stage during this pandemic, high school students in particular have taken an interest in its many aspects as a career. Additionally, we provided telehealth training for our students to be ready to participate in this new era of healthcare when they graduate. And we have trained additional Mental Health First Aid instructors to work with students and health partners. As we reflect on the past year, we thank the many heroes in our region and across the country made up of healthcare providers and essential workers who have worked tirelessly to keep us safe, provide for many of our basic needs and to train our future healthcare professionals. They have truly inspired us!



—Jane Nester, DrPH, Executive Director

2021 Annual Report

RECRUITING...TRAINING...RETAINING

RECRUIT	TRAIN	RETAIN
Preparing youth and adults for careers in healthcare by expanding their views of the world of health careers and inspiring them to pursue the path of becoming healthcare professionals	Facilitating community-based clinical training experiences for health professions students by connecting future physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses and other healthcare providers with our communities	Sustaining the healthcare workforce through continuing education and professional development programs in collaboration with our community partners

Recruit Preparing Students for Careers in Healthcare

Intensive Programs (20+ hours)

Goal: 50 Reached: 55

Inspiring and connecting with students who have a strong desire to pursue health careers

Classroom Presentations and Career Fairs

Goal: 2,500 Reached: 3,565

Sparking each student's initial interest in the wide range of health careers and expanding their view of this field



Train Facilitating community-based clinical training experiences for health professions students

Community-based Clinical Training Rotations

Goal: 469 Reached: 690

Training future healthcare professionals

Travel and Housing | Supported Rotations

Goal: 335 Reached: 474

Supporting students during their training



Retain Retaining Practitioners in the Community

Continuing Education and Professional Development Training

Goal: 400 Reached: 469

Providing continuing education through workshops/conferences and web-based programs



MAGNOLIA COASTLANDS AHEC TEAM

Valerie Embry, Continuing Education and Special Projects Coordinator
 Rachel Kirkland, Student Support Coordinator | Ashley Paine, MPH, Health Careers Coordinator
 Bela Kundu, Preceptor Coordinator | Daiyah Bolden, Office Coordinator
 Jane Nester, DrPH, Executive Director

2021 Achievements

HEALTH CAREERS Sponsored 3 intensive programs (20 hours +) for 55 students in southeast Georgia to learn about career opportunities in healthcare. MCAHEC produced 2 health careers videos for the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network website video library featuring the Medical Laboratory Science Program at GSU (Georgia Southern University), Armstrong Campus. Medical Laboratory Scientists are a vital part of the healthcare system, providing laboratory data to assist physicians in patient diagnosis and treatment, as well as in infectious disease monitoring and prevention. MCAHEC continued Public Health for Young Adults Day (PHYA 2021), which is a partnership between MCAHEC and the GSU Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, and was held virtually for the first time instead of in-person due to COVID-19. MCAHEC reached 166 high school students from 3 schools with 7 one-hour sessions.



AHEC SCHOLARS PROGRAM (ASP)

MCAHEC continued the ASP to promote interprofessional practice and education (IPE). This program is comprised of GSU students from public health, nutrition, health informatics, and nursing. The purpose of the ASP is to give health professions students a unique opportunity to practice hands-on training, experience providing care in a rural/underserved environment, work with other health professions students, and to learn how to function as an interdisciplinary team for the best patient and community outcomes. 18 AHEC Scholars Program students graduated from Cohort 2 and MCAHEC celebrated a virtual graduation in early April. Cohort 2 completed a Capstone Experience Project focusing on "The Challenges of COVID-19 in Rural America and Potential Solutions." MCAHEC recruited 18 students for Cohort 3 who completed their first year in April 2021. Additionally, our AHEC Scholar's Faculty and Staff won the National AHEC Organization (NAO) Conference "Attendee Poster Award" featuring the AHEC Scholars Program and Capstone Experience. Twenty-seven states participated in the voting.



GEORGIA STATEWIDE AHEC PRECEPTOR TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM (PTIP)

This program is to recognize and reward uncompensated community-based faculty physicians, PAs and APRNs who provide training to MD/DO, PA, and APRN students matriculating at Georgia academic institutions. Physicians can earn up to \$8,500 of tax credits each calendar year while APRNs and PAs can earn up to \$6,375 tax credits for the same time period. Credits are accrued by providing a rotation (160 hours of training per credit) with a maximum of 10 credits. In our region, 167 preceptors donated 75,446 training hours for 641 clinical rotations to train our future healthcare providers for CY 2020.



CLINICAL TRAINING 690 student rotations have occurred with 110 preceptors with 96,937 hours of clinical training in 24 of our 39 counties (19 counties were rural). Student disciplines included: 404 MD, 29 DO, 168 PA, and 89 others. We provided students housing in 9 locations for a total of 70 beds. We supported 474 student rotations through housing and travel stipends. The overall investment in clinical training was \$383,148.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Sponsored 11 CE/CME activities for 469 healthcare professionals. Featured programs included a webinar on Mental Health Well-being for Healthcare Providers During COVID-19 and an Inaugural Women's Health Symposium held virtually. Healthcare professionals used the trainings to maintain licensure/certification renewal. The average evaluation score was 4.80 on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being excellent.



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (MHFA)

MCAHEC worked with the National Council for Behavioral Health to train 2 additional instructors in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). As part of the AHEC Scholars Program, MHFA was provided to all students in the program in addition to other health professions students at GSU and preceptors working with MCAHEC. Additional MHFA programs were provided for the staff of FQHCs and health departments. We had a total of 6 MHFA programs for this fiscal year. MHFA is an 8-hour training program that teaches skills of how to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and then help connect them to the appropriate care.



MIGRANT FARMWORKER PROGRAM

Provided multiple opportunities for 11 health professions students to experience working with migrant and seasonal farmworkers through a series of 32 farmworker outreach clinics through East Georgia Health Center, Inc., as well as one community health clinic through Southeast Georgia Communities Project, Inc. Overall, 100% of the students surveyed would recommend the migrant farmworker and community clinic experience to other students. Partner schools included: Georgia Southern University, Mercer University, and South University. Disciplines included nursing, nutrition, physician assistant, public health and health informatics.

