



THE HISTORY OF GEORGIA AHEC

1972

- Nationally, 11 Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program offices were awarded a 5-year contract through the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to recruit, train, and retain health professions workforce committed to underserved populations

- The National AHEC Organization (NAO) was created



1984

- The Southeastern Primary Care Consortium (SPCC)-Atlanta AHEC was opened through Moorehouse School of Medicine (MSM) with basic federal funds with Robert Hall as the founding Board Chair and Marcellus Lewis as Founding Director



1987

- CHEP AHEC was opened with Dr. Charles Rapella as founding Board Chair and Charles Lang as founding Center Director



1990

- - The SOWEGA AHEC was opened with James Hotz, MD as founding Board Chair and Pam Reynolds as founding Center Director

1991

- CHEP-AHEC rotated off full federal AHEC funding
- Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) received "Bridge" Grant to begin the formation of the Statewide AHEC Network

1992

- MSM convened a meeting for the four medical school deans to discuss AHEC's future in Georgia
- The first edition of *Health Careers in Georgia* was published

1993

- The Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) AHEC Program office was established through a federal grant provided by the DHSS

1994

- Three Rivers AHEC was opened in Columbus with Brian McCluskey as founding Board Chair and Jan Pittman as founding Center Director



- *Health Careers in Georgia* became a statewide project

- Southwest Georgia experienced catastrophic flooding, now known as the "Year of the Great Floods"



1995

- Microsoft Word was utilized as the primary data system for the Network

1996

- Blue Ridge AHEC was opened in Rome; founding board chair was Steve Murdoc, founding Center Director was Sharon Norman



- The Medical College of Georgia (MCG) and MUSM created an integrated statewide AHEC Network program

- The first AHEC Network Advisory Council Meeting was conducted

- MCG & MUSM received a grant to operate as a federally funded AHEC. The grant requested money for establishment of a statewide program office, continuation of MUSM program office, years 4-6 for Three Rivers, and startup funds for Blue Ridge & Foothills AHEC

- MCG received the statewide AHEC Network grant from DHHS

- Word Perfect was utilized as the primary data system

1997

- Atlanta AHEC, CHEP AHEC & SOWEGA AHEC received first state funding

- SOWEGA funded \$420,000
- CHEP-AHEC funded \$420,000
- SPCC-Atlanta funded \$290,000

- Word Perfect was utilized as the primary data system

1998

- Foothills AHEC was opened in Gainesville; founding board chair LaTrell Simpson and founding Center Director was Sheila Griffin



- MSM office funded \$206,000
- SOWEGA funded \$432,600
- CHEP-AHEC funded \$432,600
- SPCC-Atlanta funded \$298,700

1999

- Three Rivers AHEC received first state funding
- The first "Program Industry Certification Model and Handbook for Secondary Health Occupations Education" in the nation was created by Blue Ridge AHEC

- MSM funded \$212,180
- SOWEGA funded \$445,578
- CHEP AHEC funded \$445,578
- SPCC-Atlanta funded \$307,661
- Three Rivers funded \$445,578

- Georgia AHEC Network & Blue Ridge AHEC were named certifying bodies for secondary health occupations education programs

- Three Rivers received the NAO Award of "Excellence in Continuing Education"

- CHEP AHEC received NAO "Outstanding Non-Border Health Education and Training Center Program" award

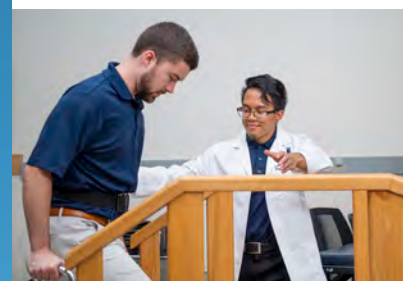
- SPCC-Atlanta AHEC received the NAO "Outstanding Community Service" award

2000

- CHEP-AHEC developed the Farmworker Health Project and co-sponsored Hometown Health Careers Project

- University System of Georgia Board of Regents (BOR) provided funding for AHEC, and \$600,000 in funds were matched through the Department of Community Health (DCH) for a total of \$1,200,000 (there was also an extra space between Regents and (BOR))

- Microsoft Access was used to creatE the statewide electronic reporting service



2001

- CHEP AHEC changed its name to Magnolia Coastlands AHEC
- Magnolia Coastlands AHEC received the "Outstanding Rural Program" award and expanded the Farmworker Health Project
- Three Rivers AHEC received a third grant from the National Library of Medicine to expand the TRIAD Network project
- SOWEGA funded \$472,715
Magnolia Coastlands funded \$472,715
Three Rivers funded \$472,715
SPCC-Atlanta funded \$326,398
Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Southern Rural Access grant awarded



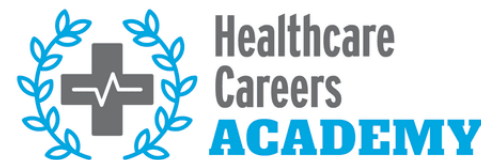
2002

- The MUSM program office funding transitioned to state dollars
- SOWEGA developed Teachers Exploring and Advocating Careers in Health (TEACH) and was awarded the 2001 NAO Center Award for Health Careers Student recruitment
- SOWEGA funded \$486,897
Magnolia Coastlands funded \$486,897
Three Rivers funded \$486,897
SPCC-Atlanta funded \$336,190

■ Total state appropriation increased to \$725,000

2003

- Foothills AHEC office transitioned to state dollars
- Statewide Health Careers Academy was held for the first time at MCG
- SOWEGA funded \$501,504
Magnolia Coastlands funded \$501,504
Three Rivers funded \$501,504
Foothills funded \$501,504
SPCC-Atlanta funded \$346,276



- SOWEGA AHEC developed a two-part program that enables non-practicing RNs to re-enter nursing
- The legislature increased funding for the AHEC contract in rural health in the amount of \$125,000

2004

- The statewide AHEC Network sponsored the "Advanced Health Careers Academy" and the Statewide Health Careers Academy was held at MCG
- Magnolia Coastlands AHEC received the "Center of Excellence in Health Careers Recruitment" award as well as the "Leadership for Changing the World" award
- SOWEGA established the "Pathways to Med School" program
- SOWEGA funded \$516,550
Magnolia Coastlands funded \$516,550
Three Rivers funded \$516,550
Foothills funded \$516,550
Blue Ridge funded \$516,550
SPCC-Atlanta funded \$356,663



2005

- The MCG and MUSM partnership remains
- Three Rivers AHEC collaborated with West Georgia Cancer Coalition to produce the "Careers in Oncology" CD that was distributed to Georgia high schools
- MSM funded \$253,358
MUSM program office funded \$253,358
MCG program office funded \$253,358
SOWEGA funded \$532,047
Magnolia Coastlands funded \$532,047
Three Rivers funded \$532,047
Foothills funded \$532,047
Blue Ridge funded \$532,047
SPCC-Atlanta funded \$367,363



■ DCH funding cut; Lost \$725,000 federal administrative match on state appropriation, lost \$550,000 with the abolition of Workforce Policy Advisory Board, lost \$365,000 Program Office Federal Administrative match, and a reduction in federal AHEC funding from Core to Model

2006

■ Three Rivers received a grant from the Healthcare Georgia Foundation to provide online library resources to all AHEC preceptors/students statewide

2007

■ DCH provided additional funding to AHEC in the amount of \$590,000 with total state appropriation of \$1,315,000

■ DCH provided additional funding to AHEC in the amount of \$150,000

2008

- The first Primary Care Summit was held in 2008; AHEC established the Primary Care Shortages Task force
- The appropriation amount for the state was increased by \$500,000

■ DCH increased funding to the AHEC with \$163,000 to support student housing while on community based clinical rotations and \$337,000 to increase the core operating resources for the six regional AHEC Centers

2009

■ GA Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine - Georgia Campus (PCOM) Anchor Program was created in Columbus, Georgia

■ SOWEGA received a \$25,500 grant for strengthening and sustaining health nonprofit organizations

■ The State Office of Rural Health (SORH) provided additional funds for housing and stipends in the amount of \$55,000

2010

■ The Georgia Rural Medical Scholars Program (GRMSP) was established in Magnolia Coastlands

■ Loss of SORH funding in the amount of \$55,000; legislative funding cut through BOR by 8% at \$156,371; amended BOR legislative funding cut of 2% at-\$34,865

2011

■ MCG became Georgia Health Sciences University

■ The Primary Care Summit became an annual event

■ The Georgia AHEC launched the "Expert Preceptor Training Series" that provided 6 hours of Continuing Education (CE)

■ Magnolia Coastlands was awarded GRHA's 2010 Outstanding Rural Health Program of the Year

■ SOWEGA was awarded the 2011 Technology Innovation Award

■ Legislative funding cut through BOR from FY2011 original budget by 4% in the amount of \$70,950



- Georgia Health Sciences University and Augusta State University merged to become Georgia Regents University and the College of Medicine was renamed to the Medical College of Georgia
- SOWEGA, Foothills, and Magnolia Coastlands AHEC awarded \$12,000 for strengthening and sustaining non-profit organizations
- AHEC primary data management system transitioned to the AHEC Database Management System (ADMS) and the AHEC Reporting Management System (ARMS) on the Salesforce platform (SERS)
- BOR legislative funding cut from FY11 original budget by 2% in the amount of \$35,476; total funding increase from DCH by \$693,750

- The Mercer University Physician's Assistant Program partnered with Georgia AHECs to encourage PAs to work in rural Georgia by creating the Community Integration Program

- Georgia became the first state to offer a tax deduction, through the Preceptor Tax Incentive Program (PTIP), to community-based physicians who provided uncompensated training to medical students



- MCG commits to funding the administrative costs associated with implementing the PTIP legislation for the state
- ADMS was implemented statewide

- Georgia Regents University became Augusta University
- The first tax deductions letters were certified and distributed
- The Pathways to Medicine offered by Foothills AHEC in addition to SOWEGA AHEC
- Housing funding increased through DCH by \$300,000

- Foothills AHEC awarded support from the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians for 2016 Pathway to Med School Program
- A total of \$1,517,000 in deductions were certified by PTIP for 2015

- Total funding: \$4,511,643
- Colorado created their own preceptor tax incentive program; Kentucky and South Carolina introduced legislation for PTIP but they remained as pending items in their legislatures
- The Primary Care Summit was changed to a biannual event



- Total funding: \$4,511,643
- Foothills AHEC coordinated a Nurse Practitioner cohort for a post-masters certification in acute care
- The Foothills AHEC Intensive Program Scholarship was developed to assist with tracking high school students after graduation

- Program Office at Augusta University became the sole AHEC program office for Georgia

- Total funding: \$4,706,893
- The AHEC Scholars program was developed nation wide in 2018
- Hawaii's preceptor tax credit was passed
- DCH funding increased for housing by \$150,000



- The Georgia legislature took the existing PTIP further by abolishing the old tax deduction and replacing it with a tax credit applicable to an individual's state income tax
- The statewide AHEC Network received the substance abuse mental health supplemental grant to train 15 Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) instructors

- On January 9th, the World Health Organization announced that the SARS-CoV-19 Coronavirus had emerged in Wuhan, China. Several months later COVID-19 had become a global pandemic

- South Carolina passed SB314 as a result of the preceptor tax incentive initiative
- AHEC received the supplemental COVID-19 grant in the amount of \$95,455

- The Statewide AHEC Network received an additional grant to fund the training of an additional 15 MHFA instructors

- AHEC primary data management system consolidated to one database, ADMS 2.0, on the Salesforce platform

- The Statewide AHEC Network received the Simulation Education Training grant
- The National AHEC Organization (NAO) celebrated its 50th anniversary



■ MILESTONES ■ FUNDING ■ KEY EVENTS

