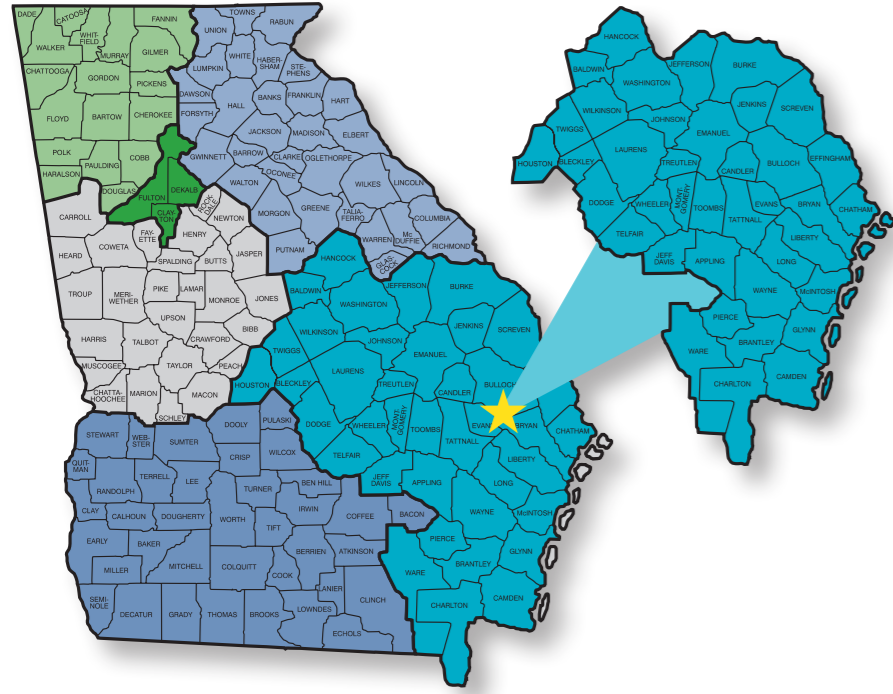


Recruiting • Training • Retaining

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 543 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, Physical Therapists and Public Health professionals. In addition, MCAHEC brought services and education to all 39 counties (100%) this fiscal year. This is the third year in a row that we have accomplished this.



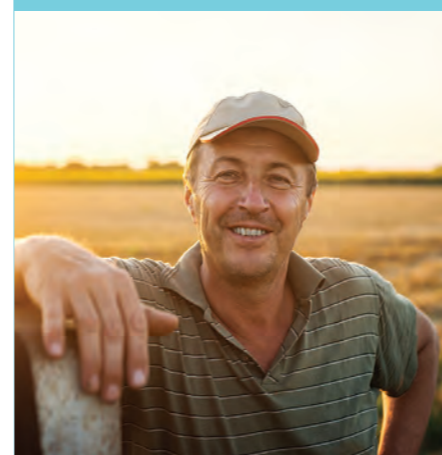
COUNTIES SERVED

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| 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 |



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

Building and sustaining the healthcare workforce to meet the region's healthcare needs.



Magnolia 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 25 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 2023 Board of Directors

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Health Informatics Program Coordinator
Georgia Southern University

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Note From Our EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We are happy to return to a full roster of programs and services post COVID. Although short staffed for half of the fiscal year the team did an incredible job, not only maintaining operations, but also delivering some new and different services until we were able to hire a new Preceptor Coordinator and Student Support Coordinator. Some notable accomplishments include: a new Jump Start Academy as well as a Scrubs Health Careers Summer Camp for high school students; a well-received and growing annual Maternal Health Symposium with both a Clinical Track and a Community Health Track with 11 speakers, a student poster session and many community partners; a successful Migrant Farm Clinic season for our students provided in collaboration with our academic and clinical partners; and, opening new student housing in Brunswick and refurbishing two apartments in Statesboro.

We are especially proud of our AHEC Scholars IPE Initiative as we graduated Cohort 4 and brought on Cohort 5 students. Additionally, we are happy to have had our HRSA grant renewed for another 5 years to continue team-based training and collaboration in healthcare. On the academic side, we have had our first paper published on the AHEC Scholars IPE Program featuring start-up operations, curriculum development and delivery as well as positive outcomes for students entering this new era of healthcare. A big thank you to the GSU faculty and to the MCAHEC team for their expertise, steadfastness and enthusiasm. And lastly, we finished the fiscal year with an updated MCAHEC website which we hope you find helpful and engaging.

Through our funding and community and academic partners we are blessed and fortunate to be able to do the work we do every year to enhance the healthcare of our rural and underserved communities within our region. We look forward to another successful year!

—Jane Nester, DrPH, Executive Director

2023

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: 85

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



Classroom Presentations and Career Fairs

Goal: 2,500 Reached: 4,313

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



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

Community-based Clinical Training Rotations

Goal: 469 Reached: 745

Training future healthcare professionals



Travel and Housing | Supported Rotations

Goal: 335 Reached: 398

Supporting students during their training



Retain Retaining Practitioners in the Community

Continuing Education and Professional Development Training

Goal: 400 Reached: 563

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



Magnolia Coastlands AHEC Team

Valerie Embry, Continuing Professional Development and Marketing Coordinator

Caroline Mitchell, MPH, Preceptor Coordinator

Allisa Gordon, Health Careers Coordinator | Daiyah Bolden, Office Coordinator, Student Support Coordinator

Jane Nester, DrPH, Executive Director

2023

Achievements

HEALTH CAREERS

Sponsored 5 intensive programs (20 hours +) for 85 students in southeast Georgia to learn about career opportunities in healthcare. Over 750 high school students viewed MCAHEC health career videos.



MCAHEC continued Public Health Day for Young Adults (PHYA 2023), which is a partnership between MCAHEC and the GSU Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health and was held in-person this Spring. There were 2 different PHYA Days, one at the Statesboro Campus and one at the Armstrong Campus. We reached 206 high school students from 5 schools from within the MCAHEC region. Additionally, we implemented a new Jump Start Academy and a Scrubs Health Careers Camp for high school students.

AHEC SCHOLARS PROGRAM (ASP)

MCAHEC continued the ASP to promote interprofessional practice and education (IPE). This program is comprised of GSU students from biology/pre-med, nursing, nutrition, and Masters of Public Health. The purpose of the ASP is to give health profession students a unique opportunity to practice hands-on training, experience providing care in a rural/underserved environment, work with other health profession students, and to learn how to function as an interdisciplinary team for the best patient and community outcomes. 16 AHEC Scholars Program students graduated from Cohort 4 and MCAHEC celebrated with an in-person graduation in early April. Cohort 4 completed a Capstone Experience Project focusing on "The Challenges of Maternal and Child Health in Rural Georgia and Potential Solutions." MCAHEC recruited 13 students for Cohort 5 who completed their first year in April 2023. The MCAHEC ASP was featured as a peer-reviewed article in the Georgia Public Health Association Journal in July 2023.



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, 134 preceptors donated 71,431 training hours for 531 clinical rotations to train our future healthcare providers for CY 2022.



CLINICAL TRAINING

745 student rotations have occurred with 208 preceptors with 100,422 hours of clinical training in 26 of our 39 counties (21 counties were rural). Student disciplines included: 304 MD, 6 DO, 53 PA, and 35 others. We provided student housing in 10 locations for a total of 71 beds. We supported 398 student rotations through housing and travel stipends. The overall investment in clinical training is \$442,800.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Sponsored 14 CE/CME activities for 563 healthcare professionals. Healthcare professionals used the trainings to maintain licensure/certification renewal. The average evaluation score was 4.85 on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being excellent. MCAHEC hosted our Third Annual Maternal Health Symposium. The Symposium was held in-person and was well attended. Eleven presenters covered numerous topics including: Breastfeeding, the 4th Trimester, Cultural Competency, and Resources for Families during the Perinatal Period. MCAHEC also invited community partners to exhibit at the Symposium and ASP and medical students to present posters. We hope to continue building on this event yearly.



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (MHFA)

MCAHEC worked with the National Council for Behavioral Health to train 2 new adult instructors in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). As part of the AHEC Scholars Program, Adult MHFA was provided to all students in the program in addition to other health profession students and faculty at GSU and preceptors working with MCAHEC. We had a total of 6 Adult MHFA programs and 1 Youth MHFA program 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 27 health professions students to experience working with migrant and seasonal farmworkers through a series of 17 farmworker outreach clinics through East Georgia Health Center, Inc., as well as 2 community events through Southeast Georgia Communities Project, Inc. Partner schools included: Georgia Southern University, Mercer University Physician Assistant Program, South University Physician Assistant Program, and Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University (MCG). Disciplines included nursing, nutrition, medicine, physician assistant, public health, and pre-med/biology. MCAHEC is also celebrating 13 years of this collaborative initiative with community partners in providing 601 health professions students with 970 student experiences for 13,888 farmworkers during this time period. These opportunities continue to help recruit healthcare professionals back into the rural and medically underserved areas of the MCAHEC region.

