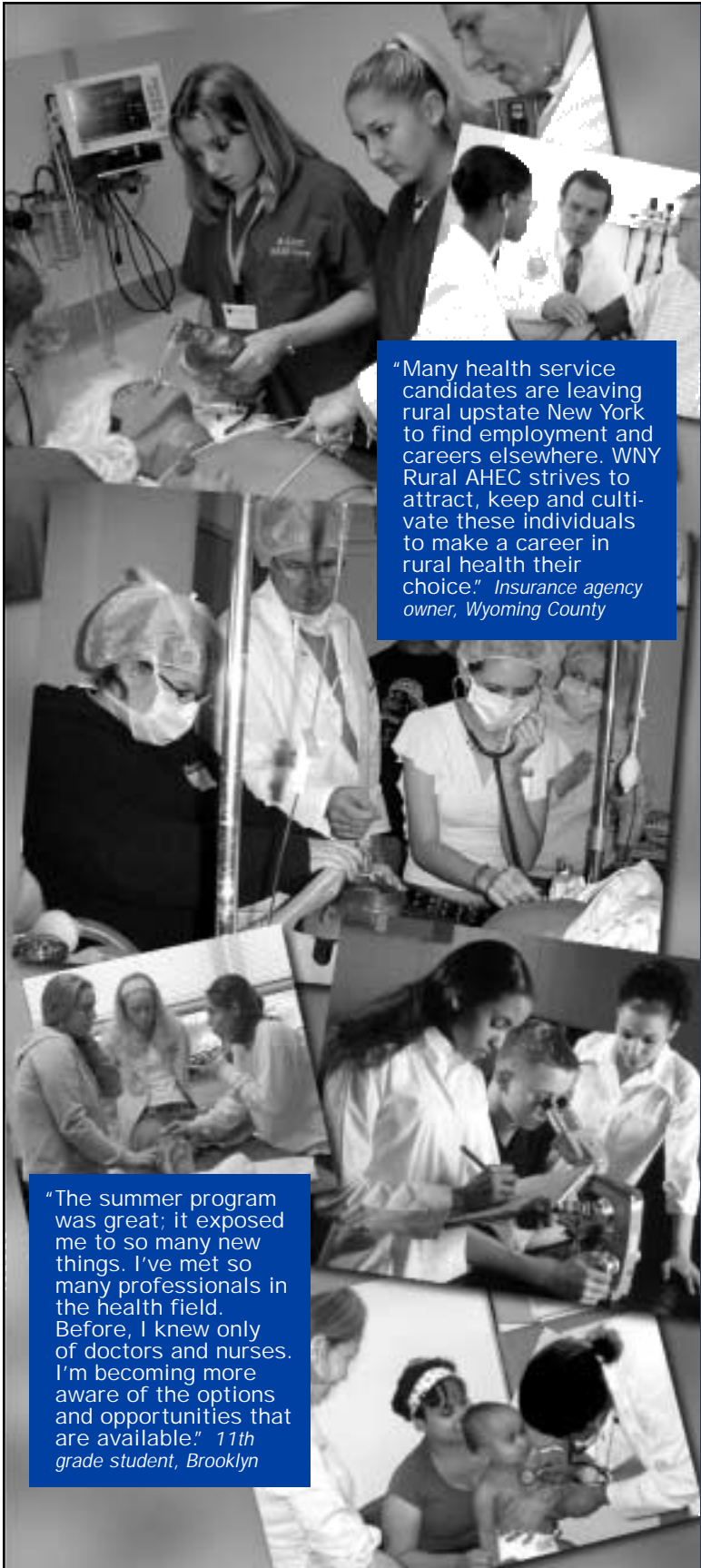




Community
partnerships
placing health
professionals where
they are needed
most and

**making a
difference.**

2 0 0 2 H I G H L I G H T S



"Many health service candidates are leaving rural upstate New York to find employment and careers elsewhere. WNY Rural AHEC strives to attract, keep and cultivate these individuals to make a career in rural health their choice." *Insurance agency owner, Wyoming County*

"The summer program was great; it exposed me to so many new things. I've met so many professionals in the health field. Before, I knew only of doctors and nurses. I'm becoming more aware of the options and opportunities that are available." *11th grade student, Brooklyn*

In 2002, **1,450** medical students and **873** nursing and health professions students were placed with **1,036** teachers at **882** AHEC-sponsored, community-based training sites. **1,180** training opportunities were provided in medically underserved communities, representing a critical intervention for future health care providers. These students, under preceptor supervision, provided care to more than **95,000** patients.

1,036 youths, ages 10-17, received exposure to health careers and health professionals through interactive activities in career pipeline programs.

Train-the-trainer programs successfully provided **300** home and careers teachers with a curriculum that meets NYS Learning Standards for health careers development.

2,298 health professionals received **542** hours of continuing education programs.



"This experience made me realize I want to go to school to become an RN."
College Freshman, Franklin County, NAHEC Summer Scholars Program



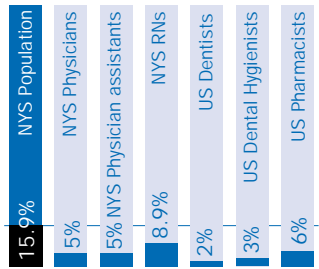
"I know my experiences are going to make me a better and more compassionate doctor."
2nd-year medical student, University at Buffalo



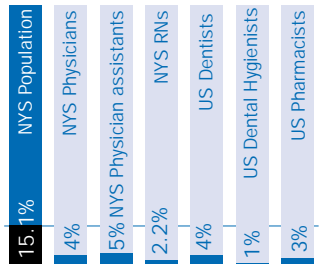
Problem

New York State has serious health workforce shortages. Hospital, long-term care and home health care agency leaders in communities across New York State have identified critical shortages in dental medicine, mental health, nursing and medical technology, in addition to ongoing needs for medicine and pharmacy. Approximately 3.6 million people reside in the state's primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), a figure that exceeds the populations of 20 states. Dental HPSAs contain 1.9 million people and mental health HPSAs contain 1.4 million people. Low-income inner city neighborhoods and rural areas have particular difficulty attracting and keeping doctors, dentists and other health professionals, contributing to poor health care outcomes and economic decline.

Black/African American Health Workforce



Hispanic/Latino Health Workforce



The health workforce does not reflect the diversity of the state's population. Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino representation in the health professions is significantly lower than the percentage of either group in the New York State population.

Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, 2000 and Bureau of the Census, 2000

The New York State Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System was established in 1998 as a long-term, systemic response to the unequal distribution of health care workers and the under representation of racial and ethnic groups in the health workforce.

AHEC sites connect communities with academic institutions, provide a neutral perspective, and engage in

Response

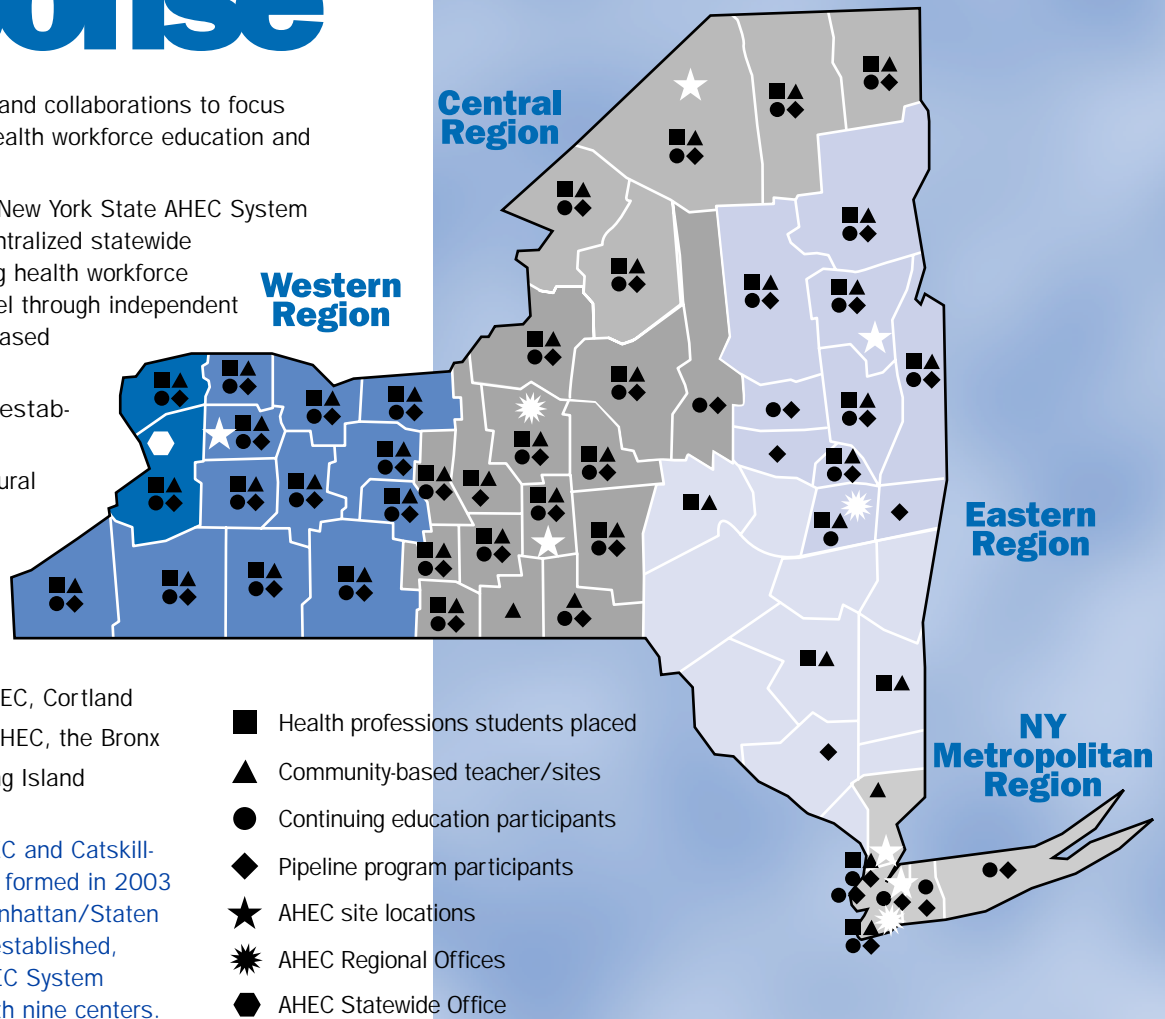
valuable partnerships and collaborations to focus on multi-disciplinary health workforce education and training needs.

In just four years, the New York State AHEC System has developed a decentralized statewide capacity for addressing health workforce issues at the local level through independent 501(c)(3) community-based AHEC sites.

Six sites have been established so far:

- Western New York Rural AHEC, Batavia
- Northern AHEC, Potsdam
- Hudson-Mohawk AHEC, Glens Falls
- Central New York AHEC, Cortland
- Bronx-Westchester AHEC, the Bronx
- Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC, Brooklyn

The Erie Niagara AHEC and Catskill-Hudson AHEC will be formed in 2003 and in 2004, the Manhattan/Staten Island AHEC will be established, bringing the NYS AHEC System to its full capacity with nine centers.



- Health professions students placed
- ▲ Community-based teacher/sites
- Continuing education participants
- ◆ Pipeline program participants
- ★ AHEC site locations
- ☀ AHEC Regional Offices
- ⬢ AHEC Statewide Office

Why did a 16-year-old Bronx student decide to become a pharmacist? *He spent his summer participating in a program operated by the Bronx-Westchester AHEC, and learned firsthand what*

Impact

health professionals do. He also learned that pharmacies in neighborhoods like his are far less likely than pharmacies in other neighborhoods to stock the kind of pain medication that seriously ill patients need. The AHEC summer program enabled him to make a difference in his own life and in his community.

"Working at this site exposed me to what primary care is all about: being the first individual a patient depends on in the time of need. Not only is the primary doctor responsible for important medical diagnosis and decisions, but he must address social problems, ensure preventive medicine and give anticipatory guidance." [1st year medical student, University at Buffalo](#)

"Organizations such as R-AHEC need to continue to educate our youth about opportunities available in healthcare. To recruit future professionals and increase enrollment in our local college programs, middle- and high school-aged children need to attend hospital tours, shadowing sessions and summer camps." [Physician/community based teacher, Steuben County](#)

"AHEC provided housing for four months of my stay. It provided me with information to set up rotations and even put me in touch with the facility that is now my employer. I cannot fully express my gratitude to AHEC." [Physician assistant student, Steuben County](#)

"The WNY Rural AHEC has been an essential partner in the educational outcomes of our programs, the provision of quality health care services and, therefore, the health of the inhabitants of rural WNY." [Dean, Health & Human Services Division, Daemen College, Erie County](#)

"I saw that there is a lot of opportunity in the medical field, from microbiology to physical therapy to obstetrics. If you want to work closely with people, I would recommend MASH Camp because it's a good opportunity to see what health professionals do each day." [8th grade student, Onondaga County, Medical Academy of Science and Health \(MASH\) Camp participant](#)

"I am involved with the precepting of medical students because our oath guides us to pass on our knowledge and experience. This is how physicians learn to care for patients - from each other. I would like to continue this important time-honored tradition of passing on to my students what my teachers took the time to pass on to me." [Physician/community based teacher, Saratoga County](#)

"The teaching materials are unbelievable, and the enthusiasm of the presenters is unsurpassed. Your efforts will be appreciated by more than just the teachers in Central New York. The health care shortage will be alleviated significantly because of this program. Thank you!" [Junior/ Senior high school teacher, Central New York AHEC Region](#)

"R-AHEC has provided this community with the missing link we needed to encourage our young people to choose health care careers and to live and raise their family locally!" [Director, Genesee County Business Alliance](#)

"As a local non-profit agency that has worked for the past 21 years helping to connect business to education, we value our partnership with WNY Rural AHEC. Rural AHEC has been invaluable to us, by providing the necessary resources to help students understand the relevance between what they are learning and how it will help them later." [Executive Director, Wyoming County Business Education Council](#)

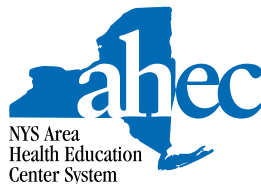
"As a result of the *Multi-disciplinary Spectrum of Cancer Care* symposium, I have a much better understanding of the genetic tools in determining cancer risk. The session on pain management was excellent; I will be better able to understand patients' pain. I will be more compassionate to the patients' feelings and the feelings of their family members." [Nurse, continuing education participant, Hudson-Mohawk AHEC region](#)

From Pipeline to Practice

The mission of the New York State AHEC System is to enhance the quality of and access to health care, improve health care outcomes and address the health workforce needs of medically underserved communities and populations by establishing partnerships between the institutions that train health professionals and the communities that need them the most.

This mission is accomplished by:

- Developing opportunities and arranging placements for future health professionals to receive their clinical training;
- Encouraging youth, especially those from under-represented and disadvantaged backgrounds, to pursue health careers; and
- Providing continuing education and professional support to health practitioners enhancing their skills in underserved communities.



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