



New York State Area Health Education Center System

"Community partnerships placing health professionals where they are needed most"

Albany Reception

April 15, 2002

“The AHEC System is a vital link in providing access to health care for underserved citizens in all parts of the state, and most especially in helping assure that we have an adequate supply of qualified health care professionals.”

*New York State Senator, Patricia McGee
April 15, 2002*



L-R: Christine DeMarco, Western New York Rural AHEC MedSTEP student, along with her mother, Kathy DeMarco, Sabastian Sanchez, Western New York Rural AHEC MedSTEP student, Honorable Senator Patricia McGee, and Dr. Lorne Campbell, Sr., President of the Western New York Rural AHEC Board of Directors.

The New York State Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System held its second annual reception in Albany on April 15, 2002, to showcase AHEC accomplishments and future initiatives. Remarks from the Honorable Senator Patricia McGee, Dr. Thomas Rosenthal, Director of the New York State AHEC System, and Sabastian Sanchez, Western New York Rural AHEC pipeline program student, along with his father, Rigoberto Blanco, were a highlight of the event. The event also featured interactive displays of AHEC activities at the statewide, region, and center levels.



Honorable Senator Byron Brown with Dr. Thomas Rosenthal, Director of the New York State AHEC System.



L-R: Maxine Golub, Program Administrator/Planner for The Institute for Urban Family Health, Honorable Assemblyman William Scarborough and Odalis Ortiz, Executive Director of the Bronx AHEC.



Honorable Assemblyman H. Robert Nortz with Richard Merchant, Executive Director of the Northern AHEC.



L-R: Joseph Orlando, Bronx AHEC Board of Directors President, Honorable Senator Susi Oppenheimer, Odalis Ortiz, Executive Director of the Bronx AHEC, Dr. Neil Calman, New York State AHEC System New York Metropolitan Region Medical Director, and Maxine Golub, Program Administrator/Planner for The Institute for Urban Family Health.

The mission of the AHEC System is to enhance the quality of and access to health care, improve health care outcomes and address 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 most.

New York State AHEC System Highlights:

Presented by Dr. Thomas Rosenthal, Director of the New York State AHEC System



L-R: Rigoberto and Anna Blanco with their children, Sebastian Sanchez, Western New York Rural AHEC MedSTEP student, Max and Claudia.

Five centers have been established (Western New York Rural AHEC-Batavia, Northern AHEC-Potsdam, Hudson-Mohawk AHEC-Glens Falls, Central New York AHEC-Cortland and Bronx AHEC-Bronx). The Brooklyn AHEC (covering Kings, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties) will be established in 2002. The Erie Niagara and Lower Hudson AHECs will be formed in 2003. By the fall of 2004, the Manhattan/Staten Island AHEC will be established, bringing the New York State AHEC System to its full capacity with nine centers.



L-R: Melissa Shah and Sabina Zani, Albany Medical College medical students, Dr. Frances Bollinger, Clinical Coordinator of the Hudson Headwaters Health Network, and Dr. Henry Pohl, Vice President of Academic Affairs for Albany Medical College and a Hudson-Mohawk AHEC Board of Directors member.

“Clearly, the AHEC System in New York, although in its infancy, has established itself as a vital link in our health care delivery system across the state. I am most pleased that the AHECs serve as enablers for local initiative by serving as a bridge to link required state and local, public and private resources. I anticipate their role in such endeavors will become even stronger in the months and years ahead.”

*New York State Senator, Patricia McGee
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The NYS AHEC System recently received notice that its submission to HRSA for continued federal funding through 2005 received a 92 out of 100, which was the top score among applicants. Accomplishments as quoted from its peer review summary: "The number of clinical training sites is impressive this early in the NYS AHEC history, as is the number of medical students trained each year." In 2001, the New York State AHEC System facilitated placements of 1298 medical students and 763 health professions students in 517 AHEC sponsored community based training sites. "One third of training opportunities are provided in Medically Underserved Communities. CHC (Community Health Center), HPSA (Health Professional Shortage Area) and rural exposures are high." "The number of students (grades K through 12) receiving 20+ hours of career education programming is noteworthy for the early years of a program. The number of continuing education programs is high for a young program. Likewise for the number of distance learning programs. The range of topics presented is sufficiently broad."



L-R: Steven Schreiber, PhD, Executive Director of the New York State AHEC System Eastern Region Office, Joanna Ezinga, Program Coordinator for the Hudson-Mohawk AHEC, and Laura Barber from the New York State Commission on Rural Resources.



Keith Johnson, Upstate Medical University Rural Medical Education student, with Peter Beatty, PhD, Executive Director of the New York State AHEC System Central Region Office.

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