

Kids Into Health Careers

Improving the training, recruitment and distribution of health professionals working in New York State's medically underserved communities is one of the goals of the New York State AHEC System.

To achieve this goal, the New York State AHEC System is working to increase the number of students enrolled in primary care and other health professions programs by promoting health professions as a viable option for elementary, middle, secondary, community college, and college students, particularly those who are from disadvantaged and underrepresented minority backgrounds. The New York State AHEC System and regional centers are available as a resource to assist educators who administer and teach health occupations. The following community specific strategies are among those utilized by individual centers to meet the local needs of each region:

- Develop new and/or enhance existing curricula to feature health careers
- Hold career fairs and exhibits for elementary, middle, and high schools
- Develop sequenced school enrichment programs for middle and high school students to emphasize mathematics and science integration with health professions career information
- Provide local mentoring and skill improvement programs and Career Exploration Internship

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Programs (CEIP) that will link health professionals with high school students to foster interest in health professions

- Speakers bureau of health professionals
- Summer Medical Academy of Science and Health (MASH) camps for elementary and middle school students
- Health careers resource web site for students, parents and educators: www.ahec.buffalo.edu (*Work in progress*)
- The ***New York State Health Careers Guide*** (*Coming soon*): Developed by New York State AHEC System, this guide will provide information on career descriptions, annual salaries, future outlooks, academic requirements, educational institutions (specific for each region), professional organizations, and financial aid

For more information, contact your regional AHEC.

