

U P D A T E

Spring 2002

MedSTEP student to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine

Inside:

2

Getting Acquainted
A Synergy of Efforts

3

University at Buffalo
Instructional Committee
Determines Priorities
AHEC Data Center
Established

4

A Medical Student
Community Project
that Saves Lives

5

CNY Professionals
Speak Out

Whitten Chosen to Head
Hudson-Mohawk AHEC

Joanne Borfritz named
Executive Director of the
Central New York AHEC

6

Hudson-Mohawk AHEC
Celebrates First Anniversary

Making Connections:
Creative Ways to Improve
Rural Outlooks

7

Bronx Borough President
Acknowledges Support
for AHEC

Bronx AHEC Welcomes
New Director

The Western New York Rural AHEC (R-AHEC), in partnership with Notre Dame High School in Batavia, is pleased to announce that Sebastian Sanchez, son of Ana and Rigo Blanco, has been selected to attend the 2002 National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, July 7-July 16, 2002. Sebastian is a tenth grade honor student at Notre Dame and is in his second year of the R-AHEC high school pipeline program, the Medical Science and Technology Entry Program (MedSTEP).

The National Youth Leadership Forum, based in Washington, DC, is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization. It was founded to help better prepare secondary school students showing scholastic merit and strong leadership potential for a future in a career path in medical sciences. Sebastian was selected from a group of students nominated annually, and was chosen based upon his academic promise, leadership potential and strong interest in the field of medicine.

By Jane Munro, R-AHEC Associate Director

A committee, co-chaired by Sally Wing, Special Programs Consultant, R-AHEC and

Joyce Horner, Notre Dame School Counselor, has been established to work with Sebastian and his parents to raise the necessary tuition and expense money needed for the program. The National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine is dedicated to honoring our



Sebastian Sanchez

nation's most promising future physicians and we are extremely pleased and honored to have had one of our MedSTEP pipeline students selected to carry forth R-AHEC's mission **"to improve health and health care through education!"**

NAHEC supports collaborative efforts

Richard Merchant, MA,
Northern AHEC Executive Director

One of the core missions of the Northern Area Health Education Center, Inc. (NAHEC), is to encourage, facilitate and actively promote cooperative and collaborative efforts between health care educators and providers in the North Country. Through these efforts students will be provided with a significant enhancement in both the quality and number of opportunities in which to consider, explore, and enter various health care careers available throughout the region.



Amy Wilson, SUNY Canton Student

Constructing mechanisms whereby students can clearly envision the entire spectrum of their academic and career options, while simultaneously affording them an opportunity to continue residing in their territory of choice, will ultimately create a desperately needed pipeline of professionals to staff local health care facilities and agencies. Continued on page 4

Getting Acquainted

Quaint is buried within the word acquainted. Quaint can mean old-fashioned, picturesque, charming or extraordinary. As we turn the bend past our third anniversary since our 1998 inception, AHEC has implemented old-fashioned values and become charmed by, and awed by, the extraordinary value of New York State's underserved communities. We have learned so much.

New Yorkers know what they want. They want quality health care delivered by people they trust. People who understand them. And they know that no one understands New Yorkers better than neighbors, in all their diversity. We want our physician, our nurse, our pharmacist and our therapist to know what it's like to grow up in our communities, and for them to live in our communities and serve our communities with the compassion and insight that comes from being part of the community.

In three years we have made a lot of introductions. "We are from the NYS AHEC System and we are here to help you" has not been our best opener. "We have heard you need health care, can't get it, and have ideas about how

the great schools and colleges of New York can help your community" has worked a lot better.

AHEC's decentralized faculty have become a resource in over half of the communities of New York State. These dedicated women and men have gathered information from community focus groups, data sources, providers and consumers. They have written dozens of grants to large national foundations, as well as to local foundations, governments and agencies, and they have created programs and resources where none existed a few short months ago. And we are only beginning to get acquainted.

Over the next 18 months, the remaining underserved communities in New York will decide where their AHECs will be placed. We will grow from our present five AHECs to nine, blanketing the State.

Some days we begin to feel like an institution, but perhaps it is appropriate to remind ourselves who we are. The NYS AHEC System is a team of community-anchored faculty determined to support health care providers practicing in areas where long hours

have been the only answer to providing good care. AHECs organize continuing education, university alliances and professional connectivity for these forgotten servants. AHEC also prepares communities to accept and teach students from all health profession schools, providing meaningful experiences with the knowledge that many will become anchored in underserved neighborhoods. We then engage existing community talent with budding home-grown talent to encourage and facilitate the next generation's service to New York's underserved communities.

Success will bring us full circle. Neighbors will care for neighbors. Familiarity and continuity, always valued, will become intrinsic to New York's health care system. Maybe then we will have the right to say "We have become acquainted."

Thomas C. Rosenthal, MD, Director,
New York State AHEC System



Thomas C. Rosenthal, MD,
Director, New York
State AHEC System

A Synergy of Efforts (Or 1+1=3)



Neil Calman, MD,
New York
Metropolitan Region
Medical Director

I am thrilled to see our programs working in tandem to produce the results we all want so much: better health care and better health training for minority communities.

Over the past year, a synergy has developed within my own organization – a synergy I now see expanding through the integration of efforts between the statewide AHEC programs.

The Institute for Urban Family Health operates 13 health centers as well as a variety of educational and grant-funded programs. This puts the Institute in an excellent position to fulfill AHEC's goal of offering students mentoring, research, and internship opportunities – programs and personnel are under one umbrella.

This year has seen the expansion of Institute programs such as our Bronx Health REACH that is focused on eliminating racial disparities in health in diabetes and heart disease. A REACH coalition of community and faith-based organizations is offering health education and other support to community residents, including youth; and REACH is enlisting doctors from the area to

work on improving doctor/patient communication in the office and hospital setting – doctors who can become mentors to our AHEC students.

As we build a broad network of Bronx community partners through our REACH program, this network becomes the base for all our programs. Our Community Health Promotion project offers nutrition and exercise training to patients at our health centers as well as to community leaders and health advocates from our REACH project; and our Community Access Project (CAP) helps the uninsured to qualify for insurance and receive medical care. Through these projects, we have become a known and trusted presence
Synergy continued on page 8

Neil Calman, MD, New York Metropolitan
Region Medical Director

University at Buffalo Instructional Advisory Committee Determines Priorities

Mary J. Sienkiewicz, MBA,
Deputy Director, New York State AHEC System

The University at Buffalo Instructional Advisory Committee to the New York State AHEC System is comprised of representatives of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, School of Dental Medicine, School of Health Related Professions and School of Social Work and the Western New York Rural AHEC. New York State AHEC System Statewide Office Medical Director, John Brewer, MD, and Nursing Director, Carol Brewer, PhD, RN, provide leadership for the committee that serves to facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations and links between the academic component of AHEC at the University at Buffalo and the community based clinical training sites in which students are placed.

At the January 15, 2002, meeting, the Instructional Advisory Committee discussed current initiatives of each of the health science schools in the areas of community-based training, continuing education and pipeline programs. The following priorities were identified for further development, 1) interdisciplinary curricula and 2) technology and distance learning. Working groups are being established to focus on each of these issues to explore possibilities for collaboration among health science schools and with the Western New York Rural AHEC (and the Erie Niagara AHEC that will be established in 2003).

Interdisciplinary Curricula and Technology & Distance Learning were identified as priorities for further development.

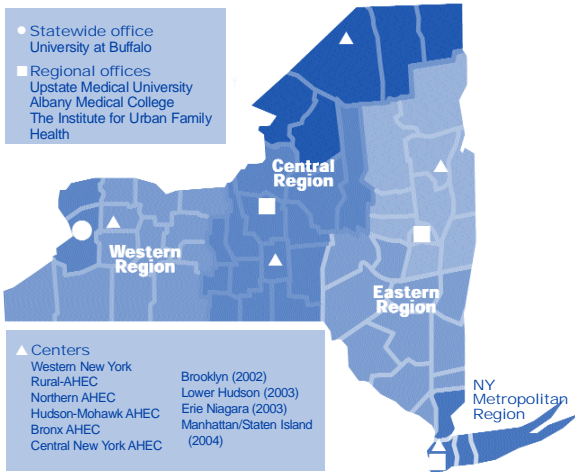
AHEC Data Center Established

Steven Schreiber, PhD,
Eastern Region Director

The AHEC Eastern Region Office serves as the Data Center for the New York State AHEC System and has acquired extensive state, county, and local data on health and social problems, health services, and health workforce distribution and need.

The data will enable the development of community profiles that can be used to set priorities, develop programs, and monitor AHEC activities and outcomes. In order to make the data available, the AHEC Data Center is developing a data sharing website that will initially be limited to AHEC users but perhaps open to a wider community audience at a later time. An important feature of the website will be its ability to support the geographic analysis of data and the production of maps and tables. The Center has acquired software and consultant expertise to develop the website, a working model of which will be available by the early summer 2002.

The New York State AHEC System Eastern Region Office welcomes inquiries and ideas concerning the Data Center. Please contact Steven Schreiber, PhD, Eastern Region Director, NYS AHEC System 518/262-9902 or SchreiS@mail.amc.edu.



Denise McGuigan, MsEd, Education Director of the NYS AHEC System and Andrew Symons, fourth year University at Buffalo, School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences medical student answer questions about their poster presentation at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Predoctoral Education Conference in Tampa, Florida.

A Medical Student Community Project that Saves Lives

Peter Beatty, PhD,
Central Region Director

Keith Johnson, a fourth year medical student in AHEC partner Upstate Medical University's Rural Medical Education Program, knew right away what he wanted to do for his community project assignment. Placed in Canandaigua for his nine month long rural clinical training experience, Johnson decided to take on the daunting task of obtaining and placing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the Canandaigua School system. AEDs are medical devices used to correct cardiac arrhythmias with an electrical stimulus, in hopes of returning fibrillating hearts to normal rhythmic function. The American Heart Association

250,000 deaths occur each year from sudden cardiac arrest, and last year in NYS alone over 300 deaths occurred from this cause on school property



Medical Student Keith Johnson explains the role of defibrillation in the prevention of sudden cardiac arrest to students in Naples estimates that more than 250,000 deaths occur each year from sudden cardiac arrest, and last year in New York State alone over three hundred deaths occurred from this cause on school property. Johnson's project involved not only convincing school officials that the defibrillators were a good idea, but also gaining community organizational and financial support needed to purchase the devices, which

cost several thousand dollars each, and to provide necessary training for school teachers and staff.

Among the organizations recruited by Johnson for the project are FF Thompson Hospital, the Ontario County Advanced Life Support (OCALS), the Finger Lakes Regional EMS Task Force, the Defibrillation Foundation, the PTA, and the Sports Boosters Club. As a result of Johnson's efforts Canandaigua Primary, Elementary, Middle and Academy Schools, as well as the Athletic Department, have emergency plans and teams that now include the Automated External Defibrillator's use. Training in CPR, First Aid, and AED use is supported and encouraged by Thompson Health/OCALS. The units now installed at Canandaigua City Schools, Medtronic LifePak 500s, contain cellular phones that automatically call 911 as soon as the AED is removed from an alarmed cabinet.

Keith Johnson is now helping several other school districts in the region to follow Canandaigua's lead.

NAHEC continued from page 1

Cooperation between SUNY Canton and Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center (CHMC) in Ogdensburg, NY, has produced an impressive program with those processes in mind.

Amy Wilson, a 23-year-old student at SUNY Canton who has her Physical Therapist Assistant designation, is now able to explore additional careers in the medical field thanks to a new four-year program being offered by SUNY Canton in Health Services Management (HSM). Wilson, an Ogdensburg native, has been searching for an opportunity that would advance her academic and professional career, while also allowing her to remain in the Ogdensburg area. Until recently, such hopes would most likely not have been met. Fortunately, the HSM program has provided Wilson with just the opportunity for which she had been hoping to find. Looking to Wilson's

future, Joan Timmerman, Vice President of Clinical Services at CHMC stated "We hope to have positions available for our HSM interns in the very near future. That is one of our goals."

As a student in the HMS program, Wilson engages in a twelve week rotation at CHMC, where she spends valuable learning time in the Cardio-pulmonary, Accounting, Pharmacy, Human Resources, Radiology, Physical Therapy, Laboratory, and Medical Records departments, as well as Conflict and Resolution Management, Performance Improvement, Nursing, MIS and Reception areas.

The Health Services Management program that Wilson is working on will allow her to possibly expand her options within a given field as well. Management opportunities within Physical Therapy, for example, are a good possibility.

Joan Timmerman went on to say "...these management opportunities will be of great benefit in the near future."

Although Wilson will most certainly have other employment options upon graduation, the active involvement by the CHMC staff in her training may provide them an edge in her recruitment. Such a strategy may further catch on with surrounding institutions and facilities, resulting in the development of yet a bigger and better health care professional pipeline.

Amy Wilson, SUNY Canton and Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center are all excellent examples of what cooperation can accomplish. NAHEC is proud to be a part of this collaborative effort as part of its mission to improve health care throughout the North Country.

CNY Professionals Speak Out

Over 100 leaders representing health care, education, business, public health, and the community throughout the Central New York area shared their insights and expertise regarding health workforce and health education needs as part of the strategic planning process that the Board of Directors for the Central New York Area Health Education Center (CNY AHEC) is currently undertaking.

As a new organization, the board of directors for the CNYAHEC felt it was imperative to establish clear strategic priorities. Before selecting priorities, the board recognized the importance of gathering information from key stakeholders within the region. Four focus group sessions were held during the month of March. The primary purpose of the focus groups was to canvas a range of experts representing community

Joanne Borfitz
Central New York AHEC Director

organizations, health care providers, health networks, education institutions and business groups. The intent was to identify and prioritize health workforce and health education needs as well as potential solutions and strategies that can be undertaken to respond to those needs.

Paul Fitzpatrick, President of Rural Health Development, facilitated all four sessions. Fitzpatrick challenged participants to go beyond setting the problem and moved them towards identifying both short and long-range solutions. The last question that was posed to the group was, If CNYAHEC could provide you with an immediate and direct service, what would it be? Responses were many and varied, providing the CNYAHEC Board with plenty of information to move forward to the next step in the strategic planning process, a retreat planned for April 25 & 26.

Whitten Chosen to Head Hudson-Mohawk AHEC

At its October 2001 organizational meeting, the Board of Directors of the Hudson Mohawk Area Health Education Center confirmed Peter B. Whitten as the AHEC's first Executive Director. He has served in that role since April 2001 under an appointment by the AHEC enabling board.

Mr. Whitten's lengthy and diverse history of service in the health care field has prepared him well for his new position.

The initial chapter of that history was his ten years with a cardiovascular medical device manufacturer where he managed new product development, administered the research department and served as assistant to the President. During the following twelve years he served as Executive Director of New York State professional review organizations directing the review of utilization and quality of care for hospitalized Medicare and Medicaid patients.

In 1987, Mr. Whitten moved to the direct provider environment as the Community Service Officer of a multi-site community health center organization. He transferred to a "sister" organization, the Upper Hudson Primary Care Consortium in 1992. There, as Director of Planning and Development, his principal responsibility was administration of the newly created Adirondack Rural Health Network. In that capacity, he served as staff during the development of the Hudson Mohawk AHEC assembling the AHEC's enabling board and writing the grant proposal that was approved in April 2001.

A lifelong resident of the Southern Adirondacks, Mr. Whitten received his BA degree from Colgate University where he majored in Russian studies.



Peter B. Whitten,
Hudson-Mohawk
AHEC Executive
Director

Joanne Borfitz Named Executive Director of the Central New York AHEC

Joanne Race Borfitz is the first Executive Director of the Central New York Area Health Education Center (CNYAHEC). She brings to the position a number of years of experience as a health care administrator as well as experience in the community college setting and with a county Chamber of Commerce. All of these



Joanne Borfitz

positions have been in Central New York. For seven years prior to joining CNYAHEC, Joanne served as a hospital administrator with Chenango Memorial Hospital, holding several different positions, including Vice President for

Planning and Business Development, Vice President for Administrative Services, and Director of Community and Public Relations. Her positions prior to Chenango Memorial include three years as Director of Community Service for Tompkins Cortland Community College and four years as Program Director for the Chenango County Chamber of Commerce. Joanne is a 1984 graduate of Ithaca College.

Joanne has wasted no time in taking charge of the CNYAHEC and moving the organization forward. Under her leadership CNYAHEC has become an independent, private non-profit tax exempt organization. In addition she has initiated a 14 county strategic planning and needs assessment process involving the Board of Directors and community leaders from across the region, has continued and expanded project initiatives that were begun earlier, has relocated the organization to new headquarters, and has added staff positions in accordance with federal projects plans. She has also been an active participant in AHEC's statewide leadership organization, serving on several key work groups.

Hudson-Mohawk AHEC Celebrates First Anniversary

On May 1, 2002, the Hudson-Mohawk will celebrate its first birthday by hosting a full day continuing education conference entitled "The Multi-Disciplinary Spectrum of Cancer Care" at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Saratoga Springs.

Unlike other conferences on the topic, this will focus on the issues surrounding treatment, such as access to screening, patient support, referral and follow-up, and complimentary and palliative care, rather than clinical care. The agenda is designed for an inter-disciplinary primary care audience and will include physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, social workers and other allied health professionals.

Keynoting the day is Molly McMaster, a dynamic Glens Falls woman and local morning radio personality. Three years ago, on her 23rd birthday, Molly

Peter Whitten
Hudson-Mohawk AHEC Director

was diagnosed with Stage B2 colon cancer. Her inspiring story of recovery and personal magnetism will provide an upbeat and positive kick off. Plenary sessions on using new genetic tools to determine cancer risk, current issues in cancer screening, complimentary care, and pain management will follow. The day will also feature afternoon

A full day continuing education conference ...will also feature afternoon workshops,...a specially designed ceremony entitled "Living Between the Light and Shadow" offered by Michael Young, an ordained minister and Hospice chaplain

workshops on communicating difficult information to patients and families, patient education/referral/follow-up, and self care techniques. The program concludes with a specially designed ceremony entitled "Living Between the Light and Shadow" offered by Michael Young, an ordained minister and Hospice chaplain. Drawing on imagery from different traditions and perspectives, the ceremony will explore a metaphor of light and shadow – the light of health/the shadow of illness, the contrasts on an x-ray, the light of hope/the shadow of despair.

The program is jointly sponsored with Albany Medical College for continuing medical education credit and the Upper Hudson Primary Care Consortium for continuing nursing education credit. For a conference brochure please contact the H-M AHEC office at 518-480-2432.

Making Connections: Creative Ways to Improve Rural Outlooks

Janet Clark, Chautauqua County R-AHEC Satellite Coordinator

We find ourselves faced with health care professional shortages in Chautauqua County though one of our best resources is the residents of this beautiful area.

With the development of the New York State Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System, and more specifically the Western New York Area Health Education Center (R-AHEC), new hope grows for those devoted to improving the health care outlook of rural western New York State.

I quickly learned what the community felt my priorities should be in developing R-AHEC programs. First we needed to attract more health professionals to the area. There were already several physicians and health care facilities that participated in clinical clerkships for health profession students. I immediately contacted the remainder of physicians in the county and asked



Janet Clark (left) and Helen Baran (right) stand on the porch of the first R-AHEC student house located in Westfield, NY

them to open their practices to clerkships for medical and other health profession students. This initiative has been successful because the providers in the county were convinced of the value of the program. Some were given small incentives such as free Continuing Medical Education credit opportunities and an opportunity to

receive computer equipment through the National Library of Medicine grant to the New York State AHEC System. Another creative attraction was free housing offered to students who chose clerkships in the county. Two apartments housing three students each were established in two separate rural towns.

A second area that needed attention was the development of training programs for health care jobs that needed to be filled and pursuing grant opportunities to fund them. Again, the "Chautauqua Connection" proved invaluable in planning the strategies for grant applications and establishing the training programs that will eventually fill health care positions.

Finally, a pipeline program that educated and informed school students and the community at large about health Making Connections continued on page 7

Bronx Borough President Acknowledges Support for AHEC

On Wednesday, January 30, 2002, I attended my first board of directors meeting as Executive Director of The Bronx AHEC.

I was extremely excited about this meeting not only because it would be my first experience in meeting with The Bronx AHEC board, but also because our newly elected Bronx Borough President, the Honorable Adolfo Carrion Jr., was scheduled to attend and extend his welcome to our board members.

Borough President Carrion began his welcome by expressing his appreciation for being invited to the meeting and articulated his confidence in our board members for the task that lay ahead of us all. He acknowledged our ability as experts to provide leadership to The Bronx AHEC and continued by identifying and prioritizing several issues that he would address as Borough

Odalis Ortiz, MPH,
Bronx AHEC Executive Director

President. Health care and education were among those mentioned and he concluded by stating that his interest was to create a culture of wellness among all residents of The Bronx.

There was a tremendous amount of energy and excitement in the room as Borough President Carrion expressed his vision to our group. I was particularly pleased to know that The Bronx AHEC received his full support and would be instrumental in facilitating his vision. Throughout the meeting it was apparent that all of the members present were like minded as each person, representatives of various aspects of health care, education and community based organizations, relayed the same message: The Bronx AHEC is able to act as a

conduit for promoting health and education by exposing students to careers in health.

As a life-long resident of The Bronx, I am deeply appreciative of the words and sentiments that Mr. Carrion imparted to our group. It is an honor to be afforded the opportunity to collaborate with such a fine group of highly professional and driven individuals as we embark on our journey towards responding to the health workforce needs of The Bronx. I look forward to the impact that The Bronx AHEC will have on all areas of health education and health outcomes.



The Honorable
Adolfo Carrion, Jr.

Making Connections continued from p.6 care careers needed to be created to enhance and expand the already established "School to Work" program that operates in the county. New and exciting resource materials have been prepared to support the pipeline program, including a video highlighting nursing as a career.

Health care career workshops were planned and held in the four dominant quadrants of the county in public schools and centers. Health care professionals were asked to attend the workshops and give testimonials about their careers. Physicians, physician assistants, physical therapists, EMTs, flight nurses, occupational therapists, medical technologists, pharmacists, dietitians, nurses and others spoke to students who attended the workshops and left lasting impressions about health care as an exciting place to look for employment.

As this process continues to unfold, I can see that the work R-AHEC is accomplishing in Chautauqua County will make a difference and improve the outlook of health care and workforce shortages in this unique area. I feel fortunate to be part of such a worthwhile New York State endeavor.

Bronx AHEC Welcomes New Director

The New York State AHEC System welcomes Odalis Ortiz, MPH, as Director of the Bronx AHEC. "When I first saw this position listed," Ms. Ortiz stated, "I realized that the goals and mission of AHEC and its host organization, the Institute for Urban Family Health, were in complete alignment with my interests and expertise." Ms. Ortiz has held a variety of positions linking health and education. Most recently, she honed her skills in program administration as Special Assistant to the Executive Director of the Research Foundation of the City University of New York and as Director of a Health Research Training Program for the New York City Department of Health. Ms. Ortiz also has experience in community outreach, as Nutritionist Coordinator for the WIC program at New York Presbyterian Hospital she developed and monitored culturally appropriate outreach activities and services for WIC clients.

The Bronx AHEC is in its building phase, and this is the first time that Ms. Ortiz has faced the challenge of building

a program from the ground up. She is ready for the challenge. "Right now we're involved in staff recruitment, organizing our office systems and reaching out to schools and community organizations. The earlier we reach out, the more likely we are to be successful in placing students for the summer."

The Bronx AHEC will offer students from elementary through college level a variety of experiential programs and mentorships. "Many Bronx students lack the role models and mentors in their environment to inspire them to pursue health careers," says Ms. Ortiz. "The Bronx AHEC can play a key role in exposing students to the numerous opportunities available for them to serve their own communities. Our hope is that we can build up their confidence to go out and do it."



Odalis Ortiz, MPH,
Bronx AHEC
Executive Director

Synergy continued from page 2 at schools, and faith-based and community organizations. This makes it so much easier for our Bronx AHEC to start its mission. We will soon be expanding our AHEC programs into Manhattan and Brooklyn, and we envision developing similar partnerships.

In terms of statewide collaborative efforts, James Deary, EdD, Chair of the New York State AHEC Faculty Development Committee, is piloting faculty development programs that

will ultimately become part of every AHEC in New York State. Some of the AHECs serving rural areas have not had access to funding for a program of this type. Dr. Deary has been running grant funded faculty development programs for 19 years, giving him great credibility with the AHEC funders.

The pilot program at Potsdam includes two phases: Dr. Deary will offer an organizational development workshop to the Potsdam AHEC BOD and leadership staff, with the hope that this hands-on experience will

foster "110 percent" support for rollout of the full program. Northern AHEC's Executive Director Richard Merchant is working with Dr. Deary to identify the first participants in the organizational development phase that begins on March 27. Next, and most importantly, faculty development training will be offered to physicians, nurse practitioners, midwives, and physician assistants.

These are just a few of the ways that our collaborative efforts create a total effect that is so much greater than what each of us could accomplish on our own.

New York State Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System

Statewide Office

Director: Thomas C. Rosenthal, MD

Associate Director: L. Thomas Wolff, MD

Medical Director: John Brewer, MD

Education Director: Denise McGuigan, MSEd

Deputy Director: Mary J. Sienkiewicz, MBA

Nursing Director: Carol Brewer, PhD, RN

Education Specialist: Thomas Feeley, PhD

Project Manager: Andrea Nikischer

Central Region

Medical Director: L. Thomas Wolff, MD
Regional Director: Peter G. Beatty, PhD

Department of Family Medicine
SUNY, Upstate Medical University
475 Irving Avenue, Suite 204A
Syracuse, NY 13210
(315) 464-7027

Northern AHEC

Executive Director: Richard K. Merchant, MA
SUNY Potsdam
511 Raymond Hall
Potsdam, NY 13676
(315) 267-3329
www.careersinhealth.org

Central New York AHEC

Executive Director: Joanne Borfitz
10 Kennedy Parkway
Cortland, NY 13045
(607) 756-1090

Eastern Region

Medical Director: David Mersy, MD
Regional Director: Steven Schriber, PhD

Department of Family and
Community Medicine
Albany Medical College
1 Clara Barton Drive
Albany, NY 12208
(518) 262-9902

Hudson-Mohawk AHEC

Executive Director: Peter Whitten
One Broad Street Plaza
Glens Falls, NY 12801
(518) 480-2432
www.HMAHEC.org

New York Metropolitan Region

Medical Director: Neil Calman, MD
Regional Director: Nadege Dady, MSEd
The Institute for Urban Family Health
16 E. 16th Street
New York, NY 10003
(212) 633-0800

Bronx AHEC

Executive Director: Odalis Ortiz, MPH
c/o Bronx Overall Economic
Development Corp.
198 E. 161st Street
Bronx, NY 10451
(718) 590-6429

Western New York Rural AHEC

CEO: Kenneth L. Oakley, PhD, CHE
4156 West Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020
(585) 344-1022
www.r-ahec.org

New York State AHEC System Statewide Office
University at Buffalo
Department of Family Medicine
462 Grider Street • Buffalo, NY 14215
Phone: 716.898.4699
Fax: 716.898.3536
www.ahec.buffalo.edu

AHEC Update is published bi-annually. Comments and questions are encouraged. Contact the editor via e-mail: an23@ascu.buffalo.edu or by calling 716-898-4639

