“Connecting Students to Careers, Professionals to Communities, 
and Communities to Better Health”

The New York State AHEC System, comprised of nine AHECs, three regional offices and 
the Statewide Office, implements community-based strategies that cultivate a more 
diverse health workforce, address health workforce shortages — particularly primary 
care, and improve access to quality health care for all New Yorkers.
Mission:
The New York State AHEC System focuses on strategies to enhance access to quality health care and improve health care outcomes by addressing the health workforce needs of medically disadvantaged communities and populations through partnerships between institutions that train health professionals and communities that need them most.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments
July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Recruitment, Training and Retention Strategies

- Develop clinical training opportunities for future health professionals in medically underserved areas; recruit faculty committed to working with them.
- Encourage young people, especially from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds, to pursue health careers.
- Provide continuing education and professional support to practitioners, develop career ladders and promote workforce re-entry programs.

Objectives

1) Expand/support health professions training programs and community-based training experiences for medical students, health professions students and post secondary students.
2) Increase quantity, quality and diversity of health professions faculty committed to working with medical, health professions and post-secondary students in medically underserved areas.
3) Enhance local health care workforce through continuing education programs for medical and health care professionals, development and support for career ladders and promotion of programs that support re-entry workers.
4) Increase elementary, secondary, community college and college students’ knowledge and awareness of health careers through pipeline programs that promote medicine and health professions as viable options, particularly for students from disadvantaged and underrepresented minority backgrounds, in order to promote a culturally diverse workforce.
5) Assess and respond to the health workforce needs of New York State at the regional, county, and where possible, at the sub-county level.
6) Enhance statewide support for centers and regions and dynamic statewide needs-based Area Health Education Center System.

Purpose/Need

According to 2015 HRSA data, there are approximately 3.9 million New Yorkers identified as residing in areas designated as "underserved" for primary care services in New York's 93 area (i.e., non-institutional) primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). It would require over 607 additional primary care practitioners in these areas to remove the shortage status.[1] The slight majority of primary care HPSAs (50 or 54%) are located in urban counties as defined by the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources[2] and 43 (46%) of primary care HPSAs are located in rural counties. The NYS AHEC System’s recruitment, training and retention strategies are solutions to current workforce shortages and NYS Department of Labor forecasts that health care jobs will grow at rates more than five times that of other occupations.

Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments
July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Overview: Outreach 2014-15

♦ A total of 6,200 elementary and middle school students, nearly 6,000 high school students and nearly 1,200 college students participated in health careers programs.

♦ Over 2,500 medical, nursing and health professions students were trained by 523 preceptors/faculty in AHEC-sponsored community-based sites (e.g., community health centers, hospitals, clinics and private practices) with an emphasis on underserved communities. Faculty were provided professional development opportunities to improve teaching skills.

♦ Over 12,700 health professionals received continuing education training in 517 workshops, seminars, conferences and distance learning programs/series. Retraining initiatives provided health professions training for adult career-changers, displaced and re-entry workers.

♦ The New York State AHEC System focused on NYS DOH initiatives: Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP), State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP), Population Health Improvement Program (PHIP) and the Prevention Agenda. October 2014 and February 2015 NYS AHEC System Advisory Board meetings included NYS DOH speakers who shared program-specific information which informed group discussion about AHEC involvement.

♦ In October 2014, the NYS AHEC System Statewide Office communicated directly with all local Performing Provider Systems (PPS) leads regarding ways AHECs could enhance Organizational Applications: Section 5 Workforce Strategy and Section 7 Cultural Competency/Health Literacy. Selected AHECs received subcontracts to write portions of DSRIP application. As submission and award processes progressed, four AHECs were included in implementation plans as overall workforce vendors or as subcontractors for workforce training and retraining. Additional AHECs are also involved in PPS workforce committees.

♦ Longstanding AHEC participation in Health Workforce Retraining Initiative included awards to R-AHEC, HMAHEC, NAHEC and the Institute for Family Health/NY Metropolitan Region.

♦ NYS AHEC System Director was appointed to SHIP/DSRIP Workforce Workgroup which held its first meeting in June 2015.

Alignment with NYS Department of Health Priorities

♦ The New York State AHEC System focused on NYS DOH initiatives: Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP), State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP), Population Health Improvement Program (PHIP) and the Prevention Agenda. October 2014 and February 2015 NYS AHEC System Advisory Board meetings included NYS DOH speakers who shared program-specific information which informed group discussion about AHEC involvement.

Making all of New York state a Campus:
The New York State AHEC System has established affiliation agreements, participating school agreements and/or collaborative partnerships (to support training, pipeline and/or continuing education programs) with:

191 academic institutions;
302 elementary/secondary schools;
417 hospitals/health care systems/clinics/networks; and
366 community and professional organizations/government agencies/businesses.
The New York State AHEC System continues to utilize a process-impact approach to evaluate organizational development and programs. This approach incorporates quantitative and qualitative measures to determine the extent to which the AHEC initiatives are implemented as planned and to measure health professions program and community experiences outcomes and impacts. Primary and secondary sources are used to track New York State AHEC System participants through the pipeline.

**Short Term Outcomes**

Multi-year evaluations of NYS AHEC System pipeline programs, of which a majority were multi-session career exploration programs (e.g. MASH, MedTech and MedQuest camps) and internship programs, measured students’ change in knowledge and awareness of health careers through a pre/post instrument. Overall, each year students have given the programs positive evaluations. On average 93% of participants reported that the program met their needs and 94% reported that they found the activities interesting.

Ninety-five percent of students felt that the activities and presentations were helpful to someone thinking about working in the health care field and 95% of students said that they learned a lot about health care professions. Based on evaluation results, we have found that students increased their overall knowledge of health careers following entrance into AHEC programming, and students’ view of health careers increased as a viable option after their participation in AHEC pipeline programs.

**Intermediate Outcomes**

The New York State AHEC System continued to implement longitudinal tracking via National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to ascertain college enrollment rates for past AHEC middle/high school students, now age 18 and older. The NSC is partnered with more than 3,300 colleges (2 and 4 year colleges as well as universities), representing 93% of US college students. NSC provides details on college enrollment, degrees received and often college major or concentration. In September 2014, the New York State AHEC System evaluation team submitted 9,909 unique names of past AHEC participants with birthdates to the NSC. The 9,909 unique names were students who had participated in a New York State AHEC System pipeline program anytime between August 2001 and August 2014, and were 17 years old or older as of June 2014. From the results of the NSC data, 70% of AHEC participants were found in the NSC, which shows that they attended at least one semester at a college or university. This rate of college enrollment exceeds that of the same age group in New York State (51%) and the US population (58%).

**Long Term Outcomes**

The Faces of AHEC webpage demonstrates the reach of New York State AHEC System programs by collecting and posting information regarding past participants’ success. The Faces of AHEC website, updated in 2014, features students, their career trajectory and their participation in New York State AHEC programs. The Faces of AHEC web page will be expanded to feature more students within each AHEC region.
Health Professions Students

- Rotation sites included community health centers, ambulatory care sites, hospitals and veterans affairs health care offices including NY Metropolitan Region Office/Institute for Family Health (IFH) medical student rotations at Echo Free Clinic (Einstein) and NYC Free Clinic (NYU), social work placements at IFH Psychosocial Program and Eastern Region Office/Albany Medical College (AMC) with Hudson Valley Community College team-based training for medical students and nurses at AMC’s simulation center.

- NY Metropolitan Region AHECs provided 10 NY Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) students with a six week Community Health Experience (CHE). Students served in diverse community health settings and gained exposure to interpersonal skills and dynamics. CHE, in existence since 2005, has past NYITCOM evaluations showing CHE students were more likely to specialize in primary care in medically underserved communities.

- Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC), Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC), Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC) and Northern AHEC (NAHEC) provided 138 medical/health professions students with housing support. R-AHEC manages two facilities that house students in community rotations.

- Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC) continued its Rural Immersion Projects. Students spend five days shadowing providers at hospitals and community agencies while exploring rural community life and identifying public health issues, including health care access. CNYAHEC collaborated with Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC to bring five City College of NY students to live in Little Falls. Six Wells College students lived and worked in Alexandria Bay and River Hospital. Four medical students from Central Region Office/Upstate Medical University’s Rural Medical Scholars Program lived/worked in the community around Oswego Hospital.

- NYS AHEC System Director delivered two National Health Service Corps overviews for 52 University at Buffalo (UB) medical students and 90 UB third year dental students.

- R-AHEC, subcontractor to UB for Doctors Across NY through June 30, 2016, coordinates resident and medical student training at a freestanding ambulatory care site. A total of 16 students have completed rotations since August 2013.

- NY Metropolitan Region Office/Institute for Family Health (IFH) in-house Health Corps Program had 86 college age students in one-year health positions, totaling 30,972 hours with 59 preceptors.

- HMAHEC is finalizing CT Connect, an online program to streamline requests and tracking of clinical rotations for students and health care organizations. NAHEC and CNYAHEC are using EXXAT to facilitate placements and integrate with MyHealthCareer®, social media, EduCare and InService Solutions.

- In response to LeMoyne College’s pre-placement training needs for physician assistant students, CNYAHEC uploaded compliance courses to EduCareCE. A total of 99 students completed three courses.

- Family medicine/public health elective at Central Region Office (CRO)/Upstate Medical University enrolled 267 students in 2014-15. MPH/MD course combines standardized patient case with clinical training and didactics, focused on social determinants and bio psychosocial care of disadvantaged, multi-morbid patients.

- Health professions and health-related students trained by AHEC staff: CHAHEC Executive Director’s practice management lectures to SUNY New Paltz/NYITCOM BS/DO students, NAHEC/CNYAHEC CEO’s Medical Anthropology and Pathophysiology classes at SUNY Potsdam and Communication lectures at Clarkson University, HMAHEC’s “Job Search Skills” for PA students at AMC and Erie Niagara AHEC President’s “HIV in the Classroom” for graduate education students at Buffalo State College.

- Bronx Lebanon Hospital and BWAHEC Student Patient Liaison Program in hospital emergency department engaged students with patients, families and staff.

- Health professions student scholarships: CNYAHEC’s L. Thomas Wolff ($1,000), NAHEC’s Bruce Potter Memorial ($1,000) and HMAHEC’s seven $2,000 awards.

Objective #1:
Expand and support health professions training programs and community-based training experiences in underserved areas for medical students, health professions students and post-secondary students, particularly those from New York State high schools and post-secondary schools.

A total of 1,976 medical, nursing and other health professions students received 374,922 hours of community-based training with 523 preceptors at 249 AHEC-sponsored sites. A total of 184 students received 48,025 hours in structured, multi-session, community-based and/or didactic programs and 363 students participated in single session programs for 825 hours.
Objective #2:
Increase quantity, quality and diversity of health professions faculty committed to working with medical, health professions and post-secondary students in medically underserved areas.

To meet faculty education needs and improve clinical trainee instruction, regional offices and the NYS AHEC System Statewide Office/University at Buffalo provided 73 faculty development programs and other support activities. (These numbers are also reflected in Objective #3.)

Faculty Development
- The Statewide Office and NY Metropolitan Region/Institute for Family Health (IFH) were leaders in faculty development/grand rounds sessions on primary care, behavioral health, chronic disease, health equity, HIT, clinical practice information, health promotion and disease prevention and health reform/health insurance marketplace. IFH coordinates Grand Rounds at Beth Israel (27 participants) and Family Health Center of Harlem (32 participants) and provides trainings for social work interns (47 participants) and their preceptors (32 participants).
- CRO/Upstate preceptors are offered subscriptions to “The Teaching Physician,” clinical faculty appointments, library privileges and free registration for the annual Family Medicine Teaching Days. Eastern Region/Albany Medical College preceptors receive access to AMC library and are annually awarded 20 AAFP CME hours. HMAHEC assisted preceptors with faculty appointment applications.
- The Family Medicine faculty development program at CRO/Upstate continued to focus on scholarly projects, grants and curricular innovations/evaluations to improve educational activities and increase chances for promotion and tenure. This group includes CRO Director/Vice Chair for Research and CRO Medical Director/ Department Chair and six faculty at rank of assistant professor or instructor. CRO staff also presented two sessions at St. Joseph Hospital Teaching Days “Clerkship Faculty Development” and “Rural Medical Education Program.”
- NYS AHEC System Director of Evaluation, Shannon Carlin-Menter, PhD, continued as evaluator for The National Center for Physician Training in Addiction Medicine, directed by Richard Blondell, MD, Professor of Family Medicine, University at Buffalo. The purpose of the Center is to expand education and training of physicians in addiction medicine, with a special emphasis on prevention/screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment, for adolescents and young adults.

Nursing Workforce
- NYS AHEC System Director of Nursing Carol S. Brewer, PhD, RN, FAAN evaluates nursing workforce and faculty needs and disseminates workforce assessments. This year she published “Examining New York State Nurses: A Regional Analysis of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and The Forum of State Nursing Workforce Center’s 2013 National Workforce Survey of Registered Nurses” available on the NYS AHEC System website. Dr. Brewer is a member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Health Resources and Services Administration’s National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice group, serves on the steering committee of the NYS Action Coalition to implement the Institute of Medicine’s Future of Nursing Report and also participates on IMPACT Advisory Group for Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) Nursing Workforce Development Coordinator is Co-Lead for the NYS Action Coalition’s Northern Metropolitan Region (NorMet) Future of Nursing and Chair of the NorMet Outreach Committee which continues to promote the “Aspiring Nurse Protégé” self-directed toolkit for use by RNs in BSN programs. She is also working with two Jonas Scholars on a Nurse Leadership program.
- The University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing utilizes CNYAHEC EduCareCE to manage resources: 1) Doctorate of Nursing Practice Leadership Course, 2) Population Health Toolkit for faculty/students, 3) Health Literacy Toolkit and 4) DynaMed reference tool – bringing in 319 new users.
Continuing Education Programs

◆ First responders received CE via AHEC programming. Catskill Hudson AHEC’s (CHAHEC’s) Columbia-Greene EMS Education Day served 67 emergency services and emergency room professionals. Hudson Mohawk AHEC’s (HMAHEC’s) collaboration with West Glens Falls EMS delivered a two-day, 18 hour CME event for 40 attendees. CHAHEC’s two-day Emergency Responder Leadership Academy “EMS Supervisor’s Boot Camp,” limited to 30 participants, focused on identifying leadership and skills needed to effectively manage responsibilities.

◆ Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC) continued to add InService Solutions (ISS) clients. A total of 19 health care facilities and 3,872 individuals took a total of 28,080 hours of training from 16 modules (all 30 minutes). Other AHECs collaborated with CNYAHEC to market ISS to institutions and health care facilities to allow staff/students to stay current on required regulations and certifications.

◆ CHAHEC co-sponsored: Bassett Healthcare’s Annual Critical Care Conference (86 participants) and Annual Cardiovascular Teaching Day with Twin County Cardiology, Columbia County Medical Society and Columbia Memorial Hospital (61 attendees).

◆ AHECs educated health professionals and staff about the Insurance Marketplace. ENAHEC worked with unions/others to bring Marketplace information to 250 persons working with uninsured/underinsured. Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC conducted three trainings on ACA for 83 RN to BSN students.

◆ CNYAHEC concluded contract with Suwanee River AHEC to manage continuing education. CNYAHEC enhanced EduCareCE with event management features and has had 2,136 active users, 11 live and 22 online events.

◆ NYS AHEC System Statewide Office is an awardee of National AHEC Organization (NAO) grant in partnership with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with a goal to improve HPV immunization rates of 11 and 12 year-old males and females by improving clinician training and understanding of vaccine. Expected outcomes are a decrease in parents who report their child’s provider did not recommend HPV vaccine and increase in HPV immunization rates. NAO is one of four awardees, with American Cancer Society, American Academy of Pediatrics and Academic Pediatric Association. John Epling, Jr, MD, Central Region Office/Upstate Medical Director, will present sessions at state/regional venues including family medicine residency sites.

◆ HMAHEC collaborated with Champlain Valley AHEC and Northeastern AHEC in Vermont, and Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences with campuses in Albany, NY and Colchester, VT on “Pain and Addiction Symposium.” The 7.5 hour videoconferencing event provided 162 attendees with CME/CPE.

◆ NAHEC/CNYAHEC CEO provided a strategic planning seminar for Northeast Indiana AHEC. He and ENAHEC President planned and presented at NAO Business Summit.

Selected Continuing Education/Faculty Development Programs

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<th>Topic</th>
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<th>No. of Participants</th>
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Objective #4:

Increase elementary, secondary, community college and college students’ knowledge and awareness of health careers through pipeline programs that promote medicine and health professions as viable options, particularly for students from disadvantaged and underrepresented minority backgrounds, in order to promote a culturally diverse workforce.

A total of 13,337 students (6,200 grades K-8 students, 5,956 grades 9-12 students and 1,181 college students participated in health careers programs.

Health Careers Multi-Session Programs:

- Central NY AHEC (CNYAHEC), Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC) and Catskill Hudson (CHAH) hosted MASH, MedQuest and HealthQuest Camps serving 506 middle/high school students with exposure to health careers and brief job shadows.
- AHECs provided internships, mentoring and didactic sessions. Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC), Bronx-Westchester AHEC, Erie Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC), Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC), Northern AHEC (NAHEC) and Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC (MSI AHEC) conducted Summer Scholar/Health Internship, mentoring and/or multi-session job shadow programs for 152 high school/college students.
- R-AHEC Honeycomb After School Program provided 43 elementary/middle students with activities to improve math/science competencies and introduce health careers.
- MSI AHEC’s Collegiate Health Service Corps (CHSC) seeks to increase underrepresented minorities in primary care and National Health Service Corps. CHSC offers 39 CUNY juniors internships in underserved areas and training (CPR, first aid, health disparities and cultural competency). MSI AHEC’s Mentor Connection academic year program with mentors, field trips and speakers reached a dozen 11th-12th graders. Mentors: Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, NY College of Podiatric Medicine, CUNY School of Public Health, Harlem United and Staten Island University Hospital residency programs, SUNY College of Optometry.
- AHEC/Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) collaborations for 142 students include BQLI AHEC/SUNY Downstate; MSI AHEC/North East Regional Alliance (Mt. Sinai/Columbia/ NJ Medical School); ENAHEC and R-AHEC/D’Youville College. BQLI AHEC provided content of weekly summer sessions. MSI AHEC recruited students and coordinated event for current/former students. ENAHEC conducted MASH camps, mentorship and cultural competency training and facilitated community health center rotations.
- R-AHEC delivered career exploration sessions and rural health facility visits.
- CHAH conducted Scrubs Club (SC) with 120 students at 6 schools and SUNY New Paltz STEP. SC, a health careers exploration program, was developed by CHAH for high school students. Lessons can be incorporated into a curriculum or utilized as a 3-year, longitudinal, afterschool program. Dover SC program evaluation/impact survey with students prior to graduation exceeded projected expectations. Ninety percent of students plan to continue education after high school graduation; 85% of students plan a health care career. Eighty-five percent of students said Scrubs Club influenced decisions to pursue health care career.

Health Careers Awareness Programs

- 4,352 K-8, 9-12 and college students attended single session awareness programs via career fairs, presentations and trips/tours.
- 2,900 students completed guided web exploration of myhealthcareer.org (MHC) which links middle/high/college students online to CNYAHEC and NAHEC. MHC offers career information/exploration; skill assessment; budgeting tools; scholarships/tuition assistance and portfolio development. MHC links to HWapps, online health workforce platform connecting students, career seekers and professionals with employers, educators, tools, programs and opportunities that support users as they plan for their future in health care.
- CNYAHEC and NAHEC established collaboration with NY’s HOSA to recruit HOSA chapters; CNYAHEC and NAHEC worked with HOSA to plan Spring Leadership Conference/Competition (to replace CNYAHEC Healthcare Olympiad) for 400 students.
- MSI AHEC partnered with Region 9 Student National Medical Association (SNMA) to create high school track at SNMA November 2014 conference in Albany. MSI AHEC, SNMA and Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students leadership developed curricula and identified presenters: financing college education, succeeding in college, exploring health careers and day in the life of an ER physician. Students also toured Albany Medical College. A total of 46 MSI AHEC students and 11 BWAHEC students attended the conference.
AHEC State and National Leadership

Governor appointments to NYS Rural Health Council [Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) and Western NY Rural AHEC (R-AHEC)]; Mid-Hudson Rural Integrated Delivery System Provider Network Board and Eastern Dutchess RHN Advisory Board (CHAHEC); Buffalo Public School Health & Wellness Group [Erie Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC)]; Chair, NYC DOE Healthcare Industry Commission [Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC)]; Adirondack RHN (ARHN) Steering Committee and ARHN Community Health Planning Committee [Hudson Mohawk AHEC (HMAHEC)]; Oswego County RHN (CNYAHEC); NYS DOH SHIP/DSRIP Workforce Workgroup (NYS AHEC System Director); NYS Workforce Advisory Group (Statewide Office, HMAHEC and NAHEC), NYS Practitioner Database Advisory Committee (NYS AHEC System Director) and Workforce Investment Board Strategic Planning Committee (CHAHEC).

Presentations/Posters

Shannon Carlin-Menter, PhD, NYS AHEC System Director of Evaluation:


- Kelly Owens, MS, Interim Director, HMAHEC. Clinical Training Innovations/CT Connect.

Health Workforce Development

- NYS AHEC System HWRI activities supporting career ladders and workforce re-entry continued. R-AHEC, Institute for Family Health (IFH)/NY Metropolitan Region, HMAHEC and NAHEC received HWRI funding. IFH ($597,384/2 years) to train 2,600 clinical and non-clinical staff to implement team-based coordinated care. R-AHEC ($910,147/2 years) to offer Basic Computer Skills, LPN Training, Nurse Leadership and Data Analytics with partners in Central NY/ CNYAHEC, Buffalo and Rochester. HMAHEC received $161,701/2 years for Care Management and Front Office Manager Leadership trainings. NAHEC ($10,000/1 year) will retrain long-term care facility workers to provide care in home and community-based settings.
- R-AHEC is a sub-awardee for Doctors Across NY through June 2016 for $90,000 to coordinate resident and medical student training at a freestanding ambulatory care site. Sixteen students have completed rotations since August 2013 at Pembroke Family Medicine.
- BQLI AHEC Executive Director coordinated/participated in NYC Department of Education Career and Technical Education (CTE) meetings. She presented at November 2014 CTE meeting for administrators and teachers. She is on Advisory Board of Brooklyn New Vision High School for Math/Science.

Objective #5:

Assess and respond to the health workforce needs of New York State at the regional, county and where possible, at the sub-county level.

“Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health.”
**Project Objectives/Summary of Accomplishments**  
**July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015**

**Leveraging NYS Investment**

- "Western NY Genetics in Research Partnership" Year 2 activities were completed by students under $1.1 million National Science Foundation grant involving the Statewide Office (Department of Family Medicine, University at Buffalo (UB) School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences), Erie Niagara AHEC (ENAHEC) and Western NY Rural AHEC (RAHEC). This program is designed to promote STEM careers to local high school students for jobs at the growing University at Buffalo NYS Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences (CBLIS) and improve genomic competencies of local science teachers. More than 100 students, teacher and faculty and 20 teachers attended the 2nd Annual ITEST Student Capstone Event, where students presented research posters detailing their gene annotation projects. Norma Nowak, PhD, Director of Science and Technology, University at Buffalo NYS Center for Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences was keynote speaker.

- RAHEC continued Western NY Rural Broadband Healthcare Network, previously funded with $5.9 million from the Federal Communications Commission to build out broadband capabilities of rural hospitals and connect them with health systems in Buffalo and Rochester providing capacity for EMRs, telemedicine, grand rounds and CME. As of May 2015, it served 20 counties, 61 live facilities and 5,000 miles of utilized fiber. RAHEC is applying for post-pilot funding through the “Healthcare Connect Fund.” RAHEC CEO continued on WNY’s clinical information exchange (HEALTHeLINK) Board of Directors.

- Central Region Office (CRO)/Upstate Medical University’s NYS DOH-sponsored program is designed to increase colorectal cancer screening in community practices via CME Academic Detailing and Practice Facilitation activities in collaboration with University of Rochester, UB, Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC), Northern AHEC, RAHEC and ENAHEC.

- Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC (BQLI AHEC) received $35,000 Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund grant, identified by NYS AHEC System Statewide Office, for capacity building, fundraising, grant writing and board development.

- ENAHEC’s $20,000 award from NYS DOL is a collaboration with UB Educational Opportunity Center and Community Health Center of Buffalo (CHCB). Four medical coders will receive training at CHCB; two will be hired and two will receive placement help.

- BQLI AHEC held annual fundraising dinner netting $10,000; Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC organized its first “Champions of Diversity” reception raising more than $4,000.

- Hudson Mohawk AHEC will earn $40,000 as a vendor to the Healthy Capital District Initiative via NYS’ Population Health Improvement Program.

- CNYAHEC completed $97,500 18-month Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant to implement health worker recruitment activities in five counties. CNYAHEC applied for another ARC grant with the support of the Local Development District.

- IFH was awarded almost $3 million dollars in CDC Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) funds for 2014-17 to address health disparities in the South Bronx through a community participatory approach focusing on access to healthier foods and opportunities for physical exercise. The REACH project works with schools, restaurants, small grocers, community and faith-based organizations as well as a host of city agencies, including the NYC Departments of Health, Education and Parks.