

February 2020

MAHEC Visits Jefferson City

On January 29th, representatives of the Missouri AHEC (MAHEC) Network visited the State Capitol. Staff members from MAHEC regional centers and university program offices, accompanied by health professions students who participate in MAHEC programs, provided information to legislators about MAHEC activities and their impact on the future of Missouri's healthcare workforce.

MAHEC plays an integral role in the training and development of the healthcare workforce in both rural and underserved urban areas. In the 2018-2019 program year, MAHEC facilitated 2,138 clinical rotations for health professions students, partnering with 517 health care delivery sites across the state.

Pipeline programming has also been a focus of MAHEC since its inception in the 1980s. Pipeline programs expose students to health careers and develop intent to pursue post-secondary education in primary healthcare fields. In 2018-2019, 7,646 students participated in MAHEC pipeline programming. Forty-seven percent of those were from disadvantaged backgrounds, 32% were from rural backgrounds and 13% were underrepresented minorities.

MAHEC's healthcare workforce development programs contribute to accomplishing several the directions articulated by Governor Mike Parson in his recent State of the State Address including "initiatives aimed at building stronger communities ... improving education and workforce development ... revitalizing our infrastructure" The MAHEC mission of improving availability of and access to high quality healthcare in Missouri's rural and underserved communities through education and workforce development is clearly aimed in these directions.

Pictured above is a former student of the Laquey R-V School District, James Parrish (red shirt), with Representative Steve Lynch and Franz Kindel and Marc Shipley of Mid-Missouri (Mid-MO) AHEC. James worked with Mid-MO AHEC to complete job shadowing at a Phelps Health hospital, and was accepted into the Radiology Technician program at East Central College in Rolla MO. He plans to start his training in the fall. James is just one example of the impact MAHEC has made and continues to make across the state in the training and development of Missouri's future healthcare workforce.



Franz Kindel, James Parrish, Representative Steve Lynch and Marc Shipley on January 29.

MAHEC is a partnership of seven locally governed organizations and three university-based health professions education programs working statewide to increase the numbers of Missouri youth entering stable, high-paying jobs as healthcare professionals and the numbers of professionals caring for underserved populations.

The MAHEC partners include:

- A.T. Still University- Kirksville
- University of Missouri- Columbia
- Saint Louis University
- East Central Missouri AHEC- St. Louis
- Mid-Missouri AHEC - Rolla
- Northeast Missouri AHEC- Kirksville
- Northwest Missouri AHEC- St. Joseph
- Southeastern Missouri AHEC – Poplar Bluff
- Southwest Missouri AHEC- Springfield
- West Central Missouri AHEC – Lexington



MAHEC: Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health