

March 2020

### Transportable Workshops

The Southwest AHEC has initiated a new pilot program to engage students in the recruitment pipeline. In our efforts to engage more students in hands-on workshops and activities to increase interest in healthcare careers, we have recently transitioned our high school and undergraduate ACES (AHEC Career Enhancement Scholars) programming to on-site workshops. Our two Health Career Coordinators have made agreements with ten local, rural high schools for regular, monthly programming in the form of Transportable Workshops. First year programming will focus on junior level classes and second year programming will focus on senior level classes to have contact with students for the full two-year period. Workshops and curriculum are based off regular ACES material, so students still receive the same information, just in a different format. Through this process, we have increased our pipeline programming from roughly 30 students, to over 500.

Workshops include, but are not limited to, topics such as health care careers, CPR, infectious disease, nutrition, vital signs, first aid, animal dissections, suturing, emergency preparedness, breast cancer awareness, public health, and hospital and medical school tours. Schools with current agreements in place for this regular programming include Hume, Stockton, Osceola, Nevada, Strafford, Humansville, Skyline, Pierce City, Southwest High School, and Carl Junction. Other workshops and presentations are arranged with other schools as requested.

“Providing Transportable Workshops to our rural high schools has been a very successful way to reach more student numbers and is a fulfilling method of curriculum delivery to these schools,” says SW AHEC Director Trisha Bradley. Transportable workshops are beneficial for several reasons. Our previous ACES groups have steadily decreased in numbers and engagement, students were not coming to available workshops and many workshops had to be cancelled due to low interest and participation. Taking the workshops directly to the schools ensures that students receive the curriculum during their regular school day, and they do not have to travel to Springfield for an after-school event when they are busy with sports and other extracurricular activities. We are also able to reach significantly more students, hopefully increasing their interest in sciences and health care career options available to them. In addition, teachers are very happy with the supplemental curriculum now available to them. This new pilot program helps SW AHEC better reach our 21-county service area and will continue in this format in the future.



*Learning during a SWMO transportable workshop*

***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
- Northeast Missouri AHEC- Kirksville
- Northwest Missouri AHEC-St. Joseph
- West Central Missouri AHEC – Lexington
- Mid-Missouri AHEC - Rolla
- East Central Missouri AHEC– St. Louis
- Southeastern Missouri AHEC – Poplar Bluff
- Southwest Missouri



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