



August 2020

Northwest Missouri  
AHEC Scholars at IPE  
Event

### Virtual AHEC Scholars “Open Houses” 2020

The AHEC Scholars program has been gaining momentum statewide since its introduction in 2018. Facing many obstacles during peak recruitment season due to the pandemic, Missouri AHEC Scholars coordinators became creative as they worked together to recruit program applicants during this summer.

Led by Jennifer Gewin, AHEC Scholars Coordinator at West Central Missouri AHEC, AHECs across the state have encouraged current students to share their experiences as AHEC Scholars on virtual panels during monthly “open houses.” These events were advertised through different social media outlets to invite faculty and students throughout the state with AHEC Scholar eligible programs to learn more about the AHEC Scholars program. These monthly open houses provided an opportunity for attendees to hear testimonies from their peers, ask questions, and be introduced to the AHEC Scholars program.

Throughout these monthly open houses, 11 AHEC Scholars volunteered their time to share their insight and excitement about the AHEC Scholars program with attendees. AHEC Scholars recounted their favorite experiential activities, reflected on their professional growth, and encouraged attendees to join them as AHEC Scholars. One AHEC Scholar shared that her experience in the program continued to motivate and reminded her why she was passionate about pursuing a career in healthcare!

Another AHEC Scholar stated, “When I first started the program, I was extremely insecure in myself and felt I was not capable of competing with my peers. Now in my final semester, I am confident that the certifications, training, and shadowing have not only made me stand out from the crowd but solidify the skills needed to effectively provide for patients from backgrounds unlike my own.”

Each month current AHEC Scholars also shared their concerns about completing the program hours and how they were able to overcome those concerns and complete the program.

AHEC Scholars in Cohort 1 have graduated and are moving into their roles as health professionals. Watching this transition, we as MAHEC staff know they are ready for the many challenges they will face because our AHEC Scholars truly are shining stars. MAHEC looks forward to continuing to build relationships with those who are now beginning their second year of the program and meeting those who are submitting applications for the new cohort which will begin with regional orientations in September. To learn more about AHEC Scholars, contact your regional AHEC.

***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.***