

July 2023

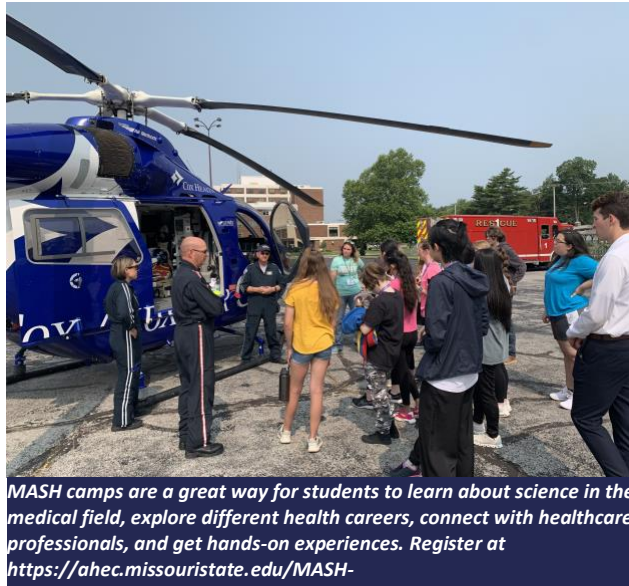
## Southeast Missouri Provides High Schools Students Exciting Healthcare Career Training in University, Hospital, Frontline and Behavioral Health Settings across Springfield, Joplin and Monett

There are currently 122 Missouri counties that HRSA has designated as medically underserved areas/populations (MUA/Ps) because of the shortage of primary care providers, high incidence of infant mortality, high poverty or high concentration of older residents. About 63% of these MUAs are located in rural communities, and many are concentrated in Southeast and Southwest Missouri. In order to increase the number of primary care providers in MUAs and to improve health outcomes, the Southwest Missouri Area Health Education (SWMO) Center is partnering with area universities and health systems to provide summer MASH camps for high school students. MAHEC has found that MASH camps are very effective in engaging area high school students and helping them to become interested in pursuing health care careers in the future.

MASH camp provides high school students with hands-on learning over the summer months when school is not in session. SWMO AHEC has 3 camps scheduled for 2023, one in Springfield, one in

Joplin, and one in Monett. On June 6-7<sup>th</sup> at Cox College in Springfield, students were able to learn about a wide array of disciplines over a two-day camp, starting with a *Jaws-of-Life* scenario with the Springfield fire department, Cox ambulance, and Cox flight team. Sessions included: Labor and delivery, nutrition, ambulance dispatch, radiology, physical therapy (with Missouri State University), pet therapy (Cox Security's K9 Unit), tours of medical response fire trucks/ ambulance, lessons on taking blood pressure, sterile gloving, and suturing, as well as occupational therapy, CPR, simulation skills, and forensics.

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, MASH camp will be held at Cox Monett Hospital. Students will get to tour the new hospital, and have speakers from diabetes prevention, customer service, respiratory therapy, laboratory, radiology, and cardiopulmonary rehab. Special presentations also include dysrhythmia dance, professional development, active shooter, HAZMAT, and cardiac anatomy. In August, MASH camp will be at Missouri Southern State University, Freeman Hospital, and Mercy Joplin Hospital. Tours of each facility will occur. At Freeman Hospital, students will get a respiratory therapy demonstration using a pig lung, learn how to type blood, and have a physician panel. They will also receive a psych/mental health presentation, mobility and balance testing, and a dietician presentation. At Mercy Hospital, they will get to experience infection control, spend time in the emergency room and ICU, see a mock operating room, diagnostic imaging, and complete a dissection.



*MASH camps are a great way for students to learn about science in the medical field, explore different health careers, connect with healthcare professionals, and get hands-on experiences. Register at <https://ahec.missouristate.edu/MASH->*

**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 ECMO AHEC – St. Louis
- Mid-Missouri AHEC – Rolla
- Northeast Missouri NEMO AHEC – Kirksville
- Northwest Missouri NWMO AHEC – St. Joseph
- Southeastern Missouri SEMO AHEC – Poplar Bluff
- Southwestern Missouri SWMO AHEC - Springfield
- West Central Missouri WCMO AHEC – Kansas City

