

# Core functions

- ➔ Information & Material Dissemination
- ➔ Health Careers Enrichment & Exposure Activities
- ➔ Cultural Diversity
- ➔ Partnering & Collaboration
- ➔ Regional & Statewide Tracking

Area L AHEC (Area Health Education Center) is a non-profit health education foundation which provides continuing education and training programs for health practitioners and students. We serve Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton, and Wilson counties by providing educational programs and services in partnerships with academic institutions and healthcare agencies.

# Health CAREERS

Investing in Health Care through Education, Training, and Workforce Diversity



For information on various health careers, visit [healthcareers.arealahec.org](http://healthcareers.arealahec.org)

# Students

Are you interested in becoming a healthcare professional? Here are some things to think about:

- ➔ Improve your ability to do math and science NOW
- ➔ Enroll in health occupations education classes
- ➔ Shadow a healthcare professional on a career that interests you
- ➔ Make sure your school counselor is aware of your career path
- ➔ Schedule a 30-minute session to speak with an AHEC employee about the career opportunities in health care

**Area L AHEC**  
*Part of the North Carolina AHEC Program*

**Health Careers and Workforce Diversity**  
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# Health Careers & Workforce Diversity (HC/WD)

Since its inception, the North Carolina AHEC Program has been challenged by the need to help recruit more minorities into healthcare fields. This program is designed to expose youth, especially minority youth, to health



careers. Considering the U.S. population demographic outlook over the next decade and the 21st century and the fact that health care will remain a major service industry of the future, it is imperative that the AHEC program focus on minorities in its efforts to increase the distribution and retention of healthcare professionals in the state. The North Carolina AHEC Program is committed to expanding the development of programs which serve to increase the representation of minority populations in all health careers.

In 1993, Area L AHEC received funding through a model state-supported AHEC program to expand these efforts, and in 1996, received funding to support a full-time director to supervise the HC/WD program.

# Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC)

The Youth Health Service Corps is a health careers recruitment program that engages diverse high school students as leaders in meaningful community service learning that addresses community health issues. Student volunteers are trained using a six module curriculum that serves the underserved. Once prepared, students choose independent service or group service learning projects to complete a minimum of 50 hours of service for completion of the program.

In preparation for service, students are trained in:

- ➔ MODULE 1: Leadership & Service Learning
- ➔ MODULE 2: Website Training
- ➔ MODULE 3: Vulnerable Populations - Cultural Competency
- ➔ MODULE 4: Ethical & Legal Issues - Confidentiality
- ➔ MODULE 5: Health Career Exploration
- ➔ MODULE 6: Health Care Skills

## STUDENT REWARDS & RECOGNITION

Students receive the YHSC National Community Service Recognition Award supported in partnership with the National Health Service Corps for 50 hours of service. Students who serve a minimum of 100 hours over 12 months are eligible for the President's Volunteer Service Award.

# Resources



## Future Leaders in Healthcare Conference

A professional and personal development opportunity for highly motivated high school students with academic promise and strong interest in health/health care as a career. This weekend conference brings together current leaders in healthcare from across the state and beyond with over 300 high school students from North Carolina.

## Health Careers Week

A continuing education program for educators (counselors/teachers) that exposes them to career information that can be shared with students in the classroom setting.

## Puppet Bunch Presentation

A 45-minute workshop designed to expose elementary students to health careers. Students will enjoy learning about health careers and healthy behaviors during this entertaining presentation, which includes a video movie, puppet demonstration, and group discussion.

## Camp P.U.S.H

Preparing Underserved Students in Health/Science Careers - A one-week residential math and science camp for middle and high school students. The students engage in problem-based learning, take field trips, and gain exposure to health and science professionals throughout the week.