



National Success

Created by Connecticut AHEC Program in 2004, YHSC was piloted in CTs' four regional centers. The intent of the pilot was to inspire disadvantaged students to fulfill their dream of becoming a health care professional through meaningful community service. The 50 high school students who participated in the pilot program did not realize they were launching an exciting national program. Today, under the leadership of Patricia Harrity, Executive Director of Northwestern CT AHEC (NWCTAHEC), YHSC has become a national program replicated by 33 AHEC centers in 20 states. YHSC has received recognition from the National AHEC Organization, the National Health Service Corps and the Corporation for National and Community Service: Learn and Serve. As of 2009, 1600 YHSC volunteers have served an amazing 48,000 hours of service to disadvantaged populations in their communities!

Visit: www.nwctahec.org

YHSC is funded in part by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service: Learn and Serve



Area L AHEC

Part of the NC AHEC Program

Bridging Education to
Quality in Health Care

The vision of Northwestern CT AHEC, in collaboration with Area L AHEC, is to have YHSC become the premier national youth health careers recruitment program. We are committed to achieving the highest quality outcomes for students and AHECs implementing YHSC.

Area L AHEC is one of nine regional centers of the NC AHEC Program. In operation since 1972, Area L AHEC is a 501-C-3 non-profit agency. Our mission is to meet the health care workforce needs of Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton, and Wilson counties by providing educational programs and services in that bridge academic institutions and communities to improve the health of the people of North Carolina with a focus on underserved populations.



Students helping to create healthier communities through service learning...



The Youth Health Service Corps mission is to increase the number of diverse high school students who matriculate into post secondary health care education programs.

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 curriculum that prepares them to serve in health care settings that serve the underserved. Once prepared, students choose independent service or group service learning projects to complete a minimum of twenty hours of service for completion of the program.

Student benefits include:

- Knowledge about health careers
- Participation in meaningful service
- Increase in academic & civic engagement
- Exposure to professional career role models
- Building their resume for college or work
- Participation in YHSC online social network of students with similar interests.

“I have had a lot of great experiences and opportunities because of YHSC and for that I am thankful. My volunteer placement in pharmacy has secured my desire to pursue this as a career.”

K.A. CT high school senior

YHSC Program & Curriculum

The Youth Health Service Corps is grounded in four sets of Standards: Academic Frameworks, National Health Care Skill Standards, K-12 Service Learning Standards for Quality Practice and the 40 Developmental Assets. Our goals are to:

- *Increase student awareness of health careers*
- *Increase student involvement in service learning*
- *Increase student academic & civic engagement*
- *Strengthen AHEC partnerships between secondary, post secondary education & community based organizations*

Volunteer Training-In preparation for service, students are trained in:

- Module 1: Leadership & Service Learning
- Module 2: YHSC Website Training
- Module 3: Vulnerable Populations
 - Cultural Competency
- Module 4: Ethical & Legal Issues
 - Confidentiality
- Module 5: Health Career Exploration
- CPR & AED Certification (optional)

Pathways to Health Careers-Health Care Skills, Guest Speakers, Field Trips

Service- *Independent service* in an area of interest for students who want to volunteer on their own schedule. YHSC Coordinators and designated school-based Service Learning Project Champions to place and follow student progress.

-Service Learning Projects guided by Service Learning Champions, continue over a semester to raise awareness of health issues. Using the IPARDCS service learning process, small groups of students work together to Investigate, Plan, Act, Reflect, Demonstrate, Celebrate and Sustain projects that address important community health issues.

Student Rewards & Recognition

Students receive the YHSC National Community Service Recognition Award supported in partnership with the National Health Service Corps for 20 hours of service. Students who serve a minimum of 100 hours over 12 months are eligible for the President’s Volunteer Service Award.



For more information contact:

Faye Duffin, MSN, RN
Area L AHEC
Healthcareers@AreaLAHEC.org

or
Visit us at:

www.arealahec.org