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Marc Hansen, BSED
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Natalie Kelly, BS, FT
Healthcare Science Education Instructor
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Danvi D. Kornegay, MSW
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Sarah E. Lang, MHA
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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our service area is bordered by the Chattahoochee, Flint and Ocmulgee Rivers. The mountains start here. The land ends here too. Georgia is a state of variety and contrast. The people who live here are as diverse as the landscape, and each one deserves access to quality health care. Access to healthcare is partly dependent on healthcare providers being available to take care of our families, friends, and neighbors in our communities. That is why the Teams at Three Rivers AHEC and our Georgia Statewide AHEC Network tirelessly strive to recruit, train, and retain healthcare professionals. As you can see from our annual report, we exceeded all of our programmatic funding requirements while serving 26 of our 28 counties. We also have been good stewards of the funds entrusted to us in 2018. The 9th year we have contributed to our reserve funding which enables us to invest in our people, programs, and sustainability.

We thank you for your support and being a part of our Team! The healthcare arena has many challenges, and with you by our side committing to address these challenges, we will be successful in overcoming them – one step at a time.

Kathy English

RECRUIT: Preparing Students for Careers in Healthcare

Health Career Academies and Summer Camp
Goal: 60  Reached: 83
Inspiring and connecting with students who have a strong desire to pursue health careers

Classroom Presentations and Career Fairs
Goal: 2,300  Reached: 3,697
Speaking each student’s initial interest in the wide field of health care and expanding their view of this field of opportunity

TRAIN: Facilitating Community-based Clinical Training Experiences for Health Professionals

Community-based Clinical Training Rotations
Goal: 469  Reached: 794
Training future healthcare professionals

Travel and Housing Supported Rotations
Goal: 287  Reached: 508
Supporting students during their training

RETAIN: Retaining Practitioners in the Community

Continuing Education Training
Goal: 501  Reached: 1,252
Providing continuing education through workshops/conferences and web-based programs

RN Re-entry Programs Completers
Goal: 13 RNs  Reached: 18 RNs
Alleviating the nursing shortage one nurse at a time

RN Re-entry Training Sites
Goal: 15 Sites  Reached: 28 Sites
Sustaining the healthcare workforce through RN re-entry and continuing education programs in collaboration with our community partners

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Highlights in 2018

HEALTH CAREERS
2 academies connected with 39 high school seniors from schools in Muscogee and Pike Counties. 6 received scholarships totaling $4,500 and are in post-secondary health professions educational programs. Since 2015, total scholarships awarded are $36,976.

ANCHOR
The Anchor was created in 2009 in collaboration with the GA Campus-Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), the hospitals, and health care providers in our region. In August 2018, we welcomed our 10th class of 3rd year medical students into the Anchor Program – 20 students relocated to Columbus from their school campus for their 3rd year of clinical rotations. Since our inaugural class, 137 students have been enrolled in the Anchor program completing clinical training in Bibb, Carroll, Chattahoochee, Meriwether, Muscogee, Peach, Talbot, Troup and Upson counties.

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Co-sponsored 13 CE/CME Activities and 2 web-based trainings for 663 healthcare professionals who needed the programming for licensure/certification renewal. The average evaluation score was 4.87 on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being excellent. During FY18 through contracts with our partners, we received $24,900 for our services.

Georgia Statewide AHEC Preceptor Tax Incentive Program
This program is to recognize and reward uncompensated community-based facility physicians who provide training to MD/DO, PA, and APRN students matriculating at GA education institutions. State income tax deductions are available of $1,000/rotation (maximum $10,000 for training a minimum of 5 students). In our region, 40 preceptors donated 57,600 training hours for 361 clinical rotations.

NAO Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Immunization Project
The National AHEC Organization received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a project to provide education to health professionals regarding the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. Three Rivers AHEC is the state entity that selected to increase awareness as well as train health professionals about the HPV vaccine, in an overall effort to increase HPV vaccination rates. Since the program’s inception, we have trained 1,219 healthcare professionals/students within and outside the state of Georgia.

Taylor County High School CNA Dual Enrollment
During the 2017-18 school year, 11 students were enrolled in the CNA dual enrollment program through Southern Crescent Technical College-Taylor Co Campus. We invested $1,819.47 to cover the out-of-pocket fees. It is a continuation of their education.

Clinical Training Overview
675 student rotations have occurred with 262 preceptors in 17 of our counties (8 counties were rural). Student disciplines include: 458 MD/DO, 125 APRN, 110 PA, and 180 others. We provide student housing in 5 locations for a total of 51 beds. We housed students for 234 rotations and provided travel stipends for 162 rotations – an investment of $51,226.

RN Re-Entry Program
Three Rivers AHEC has offered the RN Re-entry Program since 2010 in our region. Since 2015, we have coordinated the program for SPCC Atlanta and Magnolia Coastlands AHEC. There are 28 training sites available for the clinical training portion of the program (16 Three Rivers, 5 SPCC Atlanta, and 4 in Magnolia Coastlands). Since the program’s inception, 64 RNs have been trained and transitioned back into the workforce (50 in our region, 8 in SPCC Atlanta AHEC’s region, 4 Magnolia Coastlands AHEC’s region and 2 in other Georgia counties).

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