



April 2013

To: Missouri Legislators

From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

AHEC centers across the state have been excited to collaborate with A. T. Still University as they launch the Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health (MOSDOH) where students earn a Doctorate of Dental Medicine (DMD) with a focus on public health dentistry and community-based training. The inaugural class is slated to begin in the fall of 2013 with a class of 42 students (pending initial accreditation). AHEC centers also continue the long-time collaboration with the UMKC School of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene with whom we also offer a variety of strong dental programs for students interested in dentistry.

To introduce students in Missouri to the MOSDOH, we have provided the opportunity to learn about the admissions process and participate in a hands-on skills event in dentistry over the past year. A total of 167 pre-professional students participated in nine regional oral health career recruitment events; 31% were underrepresented minorities.

- December 1, 2012 - Explore a Career in Dentistry and Oral Health, Springfield
- November 26, 2012 - Northwest Missouri AHEC Pipeline program on dental careers, St. Joseph
- January 12, 2013 - Explore a Career in Dentistry and Oral Health, Kirksville,
- January 14, 2013 - Hands on workshop at Northwest Family Dental Clinic, St. Joseph
- February 3, 2013 - Explore a Career in Dentistry and Oral Health, St. Louis
- March 23, 2013 - Explore a Career in Dentistry and Oral Health, Springfield,

On March 7, a dissection program entitled "It's All in Your Head" was presented by KCOM fellows to 34 high school and undergraduate students. The program provided students the opportunity to explore the anatomical structures of the mouth and cranial nerves using replicas and models of the human mouth, face and skull.

AHEC also coordinated community outreach for four pre-dental clubs (Missouri Science and Technology, St. Louis University, Truman State University, and Missouri Western State University) to introduce oral health activities to 383 middle school students. Pre-dental clubs delivered oral health presentations to a total of 350 elementary students at nine schools.

**MAHEC: Connecting student to careers, professionals to communities,
and communities to better health**



Photo: Patrick Trauernicht, DDS, Northwest Health Services, St. Joseph, demonstrates skills for students.

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
- Northeast Missouri AHEC – Kirksville
- Northwest Missouri AHEC – St. Joseph
- West Central Missouri AHEC – Lexington
- Mid-Missouri AHEC – Rolla
- East Central Missouri AHEC – St. Louis
- Southeastern Missouri AHEC – Poplar Bluff
- Southwest Missouri AHEC – Springfield