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From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

## MAHEC Supports HOSA at State Conference

Missouri AHEC once again showed its support for Missouri HOSA by bringing competitors, judges and volunteers to the annual HOSA – Future Health Professionals State Leadership Conference held on March 28-29, 2016 at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri. There were 950 students and chapter advisors in attendance. The top three medalists in each of the 55 competitive events have an opportunity to compete at the upcoming HOSA International Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on June 22-25, 2016.

In March, representatives from AHEC participated in the HOSA State Conference serving as judges of competitive events which were categorized into health science and professions events, emergency preparedness, leadership, teamwork, and recognition events. Others volunteered to man the Help Desk over the course of the two-day event and provided logistical support for the attendees.

AHEC and HOSA missions both include promoting career opportunities in the health care industry and enhancing the delivery of quality health care to all Missourians. Every regional AHEC in the state partners with Missouri HOSA in one way or another – promoting and creating chapters within schools, providing support to advisors of existing school-based chapters, and providing resources to individual students.

There are more than 80 HOSA chapters across the state made up of middle school, secondary, postsecondary, adult and collegiate students enrolled in health science education and biomedical science programs or have interests in pursuing careers in health professions. Project Lead the Way is a driving force behind Missouri HOSA.

Over the last decade, Missouri AHEC has received funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health to create HOSA chapters in high schools in the northeast portion of the state and middle school chapters throughout most of the state. Currently the Kansas City STEM Alliance is funding AHEC to promote HOSA and create chapters in the Kansas City area.



*Missouri AHEC staff members volunteer at the HOSA State Leadership Conference in Rolla.*

*MAHEC is a partnership of seven locally-governed organizations and three university-based health professions education programs working statewide to increase the number of Missouri youth entering stable, high-paying jobs as healthcare professionals and the number 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

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