



January 2016

From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

MAHEC supports STEM Activities through Project Lead the Way Schools

Missouri AHEC has a strong history of partnering with local schools, health care systems, business and community organizations. One of the most recent partnerships that has developed and continues to grow is with **Project Lead the Way**, the nation's leading provider of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs. The PLTW Biomedical Science was designed for students interested in health care and offers students a chance to identify problems, find unique solutions, and lead their own learning through activity-, project-, and problem-based curriculum.

AHEC centers partner with schools to support PLTW Biomedical Science instructors with additional resources such as health career activities, classroom presentations, guest speakers, HIPAA training, and support for developing Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) chapters.

The West Central Missouri AHEC (WCMO AHEC) created "Healthe Foundations Day Competition" in 2014 for PLTW schools in the Kansas City area. This event, a partnership with the First Hand Foundation and KC STEM Alliance, is held at the Cerner World Headquarters and brings together teams of six students from different high schools, all PLTW participants, to work as a team to diagnose and develop a treatment plan for a patient with a preventable disease. WCMO AHEC is also working with KC STEM Alliance to implement a \$2.5 grant from the Office of Minority Health, which will support and grow 11 new or beginning PLTW Biomedical classes in the Kansas City metro area. A full-time AHEC coordinator will help bring health career exploration to the classrooms, support teachers in establishing their HOSA chapter, and create a cohort of individual students from each school that will receive additional training opportunities and one-on-one career counseling.

Northeast Missouri AHEC staff members participate on the PLTW - Biomedical Sciences Program Advisory Committee at Kirksville Area Technical Center and plan to help BioMed students learn and grow by scheduling guest speakers and unique hands-on learning opportunities.

Southwest Missouri AHEC staff serve on the partnership board for the PLTW program at Kickapoo High School in Springfield and have brought in several hands-on workshops for their HOSA group within the PLTW.

Northwest Missouri AHEC, East Central Missouri AHEC, and Mid-Missouri AHEC are also involved with PLTW schools in their service areas, providing presentations and workshop opportunities.

As PLTW programs continue to grow, AHEC will continue to partner in identifying and creating the next generation of healthcare providers for Missouri.

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



PLTW students work together at Healthe Foundations Day Competition

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