



June 2013

To: Missouri Legislators

From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

### **Satellite Offices Established by Three Area Health Education Centers**

**Missouri State University/Southwest Missouri (SWMO) AHEC was recently awarded a grant through the Missouri Foundation for Health to start a satellite office in Joplin, MO.** The grant enables SWMO AHEC to expand health career programming to youth in the region's western counties. The distance between Springfield and Joplin has prevented many Joplin area students from participating.

A Health Careers Coordinator has been hired, and the Joplin office, hosted by Freeman Health System, is underway. An AHEC Career Enhancement Scholars (ACES) class will start this fall. ACES students participate in dissection labs, CPR/First AID Certification, introduction to vital signs, medical terminology, and much more. A summer day camp (MASH Camp) for area middle school students in Joplin is scheduled on July 24-25th 2013. Southwest Missouri students can register for the MASH Camp at [www.ahec.missouristate.edu](http://www.ahec.missouristate.edu).

**West Central Missouri (WCMO) AHEC has recently joined forces with a new host, Health Care Collaborative of Rural Missouri (HCC).** HCC started as a grass-roots coalition in 2004 and has grown to a successful, nationally-known rural health network. HCC facilitates projects that increase access to health including expansion of telehealth, opening two rural health clinics with primary, dental and mental health services, and community wellness programs. WCMO AHEC service area includes Lafayette County and its mission aligns perfectly with HCC's mission to increase access to healthcare service, recruit and retain future health professionals, and provide a base for clinical training in rural communities.

**Southeastern Missouri (SEMO) AHEC covers 22 counties located in the southeast quadrant of Missouri.** Due to the sheer size of the coverage area, it became apparent an office in addition to the Poplar Bluff location was needed. Cape Girardeau County Medical Society (CGCMS) was approached and offered to provide office space inside their facility located in Doctors Park. The CGCMS covers the cost of rent and utilities and SEMO AHEC and A.T. Still University jointly covers the cost of phones and video conferencing. The office provides an excellent location to meet with medical providers, a testing site for medical students, and an ITV site for medical school lectures without requiring long distance travel.



*Photo: Marilyn Aikins, Joplin Health Careers Coordinator*

*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

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