



March 2013

To: Missouri Legislators

From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

HOSA is a national student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Education Division of ACTE. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition for secondary, postsecondary, adult, and collegiate students enrolled in health science programs. HOSA is 100% health care! **The collaborative efforts of AHEC and HOSA are critical to address the acute shortage of qualified workers in the health care industry.**

AHECs in Missouri are working with high schools, technical schools, and undergraduates to develop HOSA chapters. With the support of a Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) grant, Northeast Missouri AHEC has been able to successfully focus HOSA efforts in high schools.

Recently, the 2013 Missouri HOSA State Leadership Conference was held at East Central College in Union, Missouri with approximately 200 students from more than ten schools in attendance. Twenty-seven students from four high schools in the northeast part of the state participated in the competitions, and seven of those students placed. Students who place at state competitions are eligible to compete at the HOSA National Leadership Conference in Nashville this summer.

Several other AHECs are currently working with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and MFH to develop HOSA chapters at the middle school level. Under the grant, the AHEC role is to guide and assist the school chapter advisors in the planning and implementation of the local middle school HOSA chapter by assisting the advisor with the planning of the annual activities, identification of guest speakers, the coordination of hands-on activities, and preparation of students for competition.

The success of the programs hinge on partnerships between the school, the AHEC, and community health care leaders to provide structured health career exploration for HOSA club members.

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



*Photo: Northeast Missouri AHEC HOSA participants at statewide event*

*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