



May 2013

To: Missouri Legislators

From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers



Photo: Social evening at AHEC student housing

AHEC Partners with Hospitals to House Students

Placing health professions students in community-based settings for clinical training has demonstrated improved outcomes in terms of chosen practice sites. Students who train in underserved urban or rural settings are often recruited to practice there. Having had the chance to live in the community and become familiar with the healthcare system and staff makes the student more likely to return as a practicing professional.

How does Missouri AHEC afford to maintain student housing?

Students sometimes need a temporary place to live while they learn for varying lengths of time – from two weeks to six months. When temporary housing is not available in a community, it is difficult to place students there for training.

In very few cases, preceptors and other individuals will graciously open their homes to students for a short period of time. In most cases, however, it is hospitals that share costs with AHECs to foot the bill. Temporary housing for health professions students is far too expensive for the AHECs to maintain without assistance, even though students often pay nominal rent.

Hospitals are eager to have the opportunity to recruit new graduates from residencies, nursing schools, physician assistant programs, the therapy programs, and many technical training programs. Consequently, the hospitals are well-served to provide AHEC with housing support.

Hospitals throughout Missouri that train AHEC students as well as assist with AHEC housing support include, but are not limited to:

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| <i>Phelps County Regional Medical Center, Rolla</i> | <i>Mercy Hospital, Joplin</i> |
| <i>Jordan Valley Community Health Center, Springfield</i> | <i>Mercy Hospital, Lebanon</i> |
| <i>Missouri Delta Medical Center, Sikeston</i> | <i>Freeman Medical Center, Joplin</i> |
| <i>Northwest Medical Center, Albany</i> | <i>Hedrick Medical Center, Chillicothe</i> |
| <i>Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center, Poplar Bluff</i> | <i>Ozarks Medical Center, West Plains</i> |
| <i>Lafayette Regional Medical Center, Lexington</i> | <i>Heartland Health, St. Joseph</i> |
| <i>St. Francis Hospital and Health Care, Maryville</i> | |

Housing for up to eight students was recently re-established in the Joplin tornado recovery area. Without new housing, we wouldn't be able to reopen Joplin as a training site for our students," said Kathleen Quinn, PhD, MU AHEC Program Director. "The partnerships between the medical schools, regional centers and hospitals and the dedicated teams of physician educators have made it possible for us to place more students in Missouri, where a vast shortage and a great need for health care providers exist."

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