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From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

The Journey – High School to Practicing Physician

Relationships with AHEC begin early in a student's life. After 13 years, from high school to college to medical school and clinical rotations, and through residency, Missouri AHEC is pleased to announce that Dr. Ben Reine is now a practicing physician in St. Joseph, MO! All AHEC centers in Missouri and across the country share these long term relationships and the thrill of finally having them return "home" to practice. Let us share Ben's story.

In 2002 as a high school student, Ben Reine, DO, was named the Youth Volunteer of the Year at the local hospital. That same month he became part of the AHEC Career Enhancement Scholars (ACES) program with Northwest Missouri AHEC—the second year of the program. In addition to volunteering, Ben began job shadowing, attending workshops, and completing leadership projects as part of the ACES program.

With AHEC providing the connection, he completed an internship with the federally qualified health center and remained active with job shadowing and participating in workshops during college.

As a third and fourth year medical student, Ben completed the majority of his rotations through NWMO AHEC. Following graduation, he completed a family medicine residency at Truman Lakewood through the University of Missouri Kansas City in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

On August 1, Dr. Reine became a Mosaic Life Care provider and will be practicing at the clinic where he completed many job shadowing and clinical training hours. Dr. Reine's comments about his relationship with AHEC: *"AHEC is a valuable program to our area youth. Through their staff, workshops, and connections, they guided me through high school, college, and medical school on my path to becoming a physician. Upon returning to the area, I realized that the connections I made through AHEC at Mosaic and in St. Joseph will be invaluable as I build my practice. I cannot thank them enough for what they've done for me!"*

Missouri AHEC could not be more pleased and proud to have Dr. Reine returning to practice. One of our AHEC quotes is "it takes a long time to grow a physician" and that is true of the journey Ben has taken over more than a decade. We look forward to our continued relationship with him as he begins practice and becomes a mentor and preceptor for future AHEC students. Congratulations and welcome back, Dr. Reine!



*Ben Reine, DO
Family Medicine
St. Joseph, Missouri*

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