

May 2014



From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

*Ilesha Clay Draper, third year medical student*

This month Missouri AHEC would like to highlight a student from St. Louis who has been part of the East Central Missouri AHEC for several years. She is currently a third year medical student at A.T. Still University, Kirksville.

*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.*

Shearon Holmes, Director of East Central Missouri AHEC (ECMO AHEC) said, "I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Draper in a variety of situations. She joined our ACES+ (AHEC Career Enhancement Scholars) program as a college student in pursuit of a career in health care. She was always consistent in her attendance at our training sessions, workshops, conferences and community service projects. We can count on her to be among the first to volunteer her time and to stay actively involved in all endeavors to which she made a commitment. She was vice president/president of the Wellness Advocates Volunteering to Educate Students (WAVES) during her junior and senior year. "

*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

In 2008 she was selected to intern at one of our local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC). During her internship, she assisted the nurses and doctors in the pediatrics department. From our discussions with Ilesha, it is clear that this experience influenced her decision to work in an underserved area after completing Medical School.

Ilesha was an intern at ECMO AHEC and served as a role model in five high schools in which we introduced low-income youth to career options in health care. She developed presentations and workshops for students. In her presentations to the high school students she was open and honest about the challenges she had to face in life and how they did not deter her from working hard in school. She has always given back to her community by motivating youth to work hard and stay focused on doing good for others.