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From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

### INTRODUCING AHEC SCHOLARS

Kicking off this summer is the new Missouri AHEC Scholars program—a course of study designed for health professions students seeking to supplement their education by gaining additional health care knowledge and experience in rural and/or underserved urban settings. AHEC Scholars will make a two-year commitment to engage with peers from their region and across Missouri; interact with a stimulating, experiential, interprofessional curriculum; and complete a defined set of clinical, didactic, and community-based activities. Clinical and experiential training will be conducted in rural and/or underserved urban settings.

Applicants must have a current interest in rural and/or underserved urban healthcare, be enrolled in a health professions degree or certificate program and be two years from program or degree completion. Targeted participants include students in medical, dental, pharmacy, nurse practitioner, nursing, physician assistant, social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, public/population health and other health-related programs.

Students from rural and/or underserved urban areas, minority students, and/or socio-economically disadvantaged students are particularly encouraged to apply. Priority will be given to Missouri residents enrolled in post-secondary health professions programs of at least two years in duration.

AHEC Scholars are expected to complete 40 hours of community-based, experiential, or clinical training in rural and/or underserved urban areas and 40 hours of didactic education each year. Topics will include:

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Interprofessional Education</i>        | <i>Behavioral Health Integration</i> |
| <i>Social Determinants of Health</i>      | <i>Cultural Competency</i>           |
| <i>Current and Emerging Health Issues</i> | <i>Practice Transformation</i>       |

AHEC Scholars is a statewide program for approximately 105 students annually, organized into small regional cohorts facilitated from St. Joseph, Kirksville, St. Louis, Rolla, Kansas City, Springfield, and Poplar Bluff.

AHEC Scholars will achieve distinction through:

- Certification in Mental Health First Aid
- Certification in National CLAS standards
- Certification in Safety and Quality Improvement from the IHI Open School
- Networking with students across the state and in various disciplines
- Gaining knowledge and skill needed to work effectively with diverse patients in rural and/or urban communities
- Coaching on resume construction and job interview preparation

For more information and a link to the AHEC Scholars application, go to:

<http://www.mahec.org/ahec-scholars.html>

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



*Leasha Clay Draper, DO has been involved with AHEC since 2007. She is currently a pediatric resident at St. Louis University.*

*MAHEC is a partnership of seven locally-governed organizations and three university-based health professions education programs working statewide to increase the number of Missouri youth entering stable, high-paying jobs as healthcare professionals and the number 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