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From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

MAHEC Partnership with Cerner First Hand Foundation

The Missouri AHEC regional centers partner with the First Hand Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Cerner Corporation to use **Healthe Foundations**. This curriculum was designed to teach students about preventable diseases while playing the role of a healthcare provider in a team format. The First Hand team has developed the cases based on the CDC's top preventable conditions. Cases are diabetes, heart disease, lung cancer, and teen relevant cases of traumatic brain injuries from texting while driving, melanoma from tanning beds, heart attacks from energy drinks, and more. Each student in a team of six takes on a role: physician, nurse, pharmacist, health coach, technologist, and health care administrator work as a team through patient case studies. Students diagnose, treat, and "bill" patients for their medical interventions.

Team-based care provides patients with the highest quality and most cost-efficient treatment. Providers must have an understanding and respect for the roles and responsibilities of the other members of the healthcare team. Healthe Foundations demonstrates these basic concepts to students.

Southwest Missouri and Northwest Missouri AHEC regions incorporate Healthe Foundations into their ACES programming. Paula Overfelt, Northwest Missouri AHEC Director, believes it's a great program which allows AHECs to incorporate interprofessional education into the high school or undergraduate programs. "We've had high school freshman and graduate students participate in this program, and everyone learns something at their current level of education, age and experience. One high school student from northwest Missouri has been through it twice in different roles and says he would definitely participate again."

West Central Missouri AHEC and First Hand Foundation hosts "competition" as a way to bring students from different schools together for a one-day experience on the Cerner World Headquarters campus. Teams develop a name and logo for their healthcare "system" and work diligently to treat their patient and present their findings to a panel of judges at the end of the day. Debbie Cox, science teacher at Van Horn High School, brings students annually. "It is a wonderful experience for my students. They are able to experience some of the functions of different healthcare professionals in an interactive and realistic fashion."

This program is one example of statewide collaboration by Missouri AHEC on behalf of students interested in health careers.



Students work in teams to diagnose and treat patients at the Healthe Foundations competition in Kansas City.

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

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