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## AHEC Collaborations for Increasing Diversity

East Central Missouri AHEC collaborates with the AHEC office of Saint Louis University School of Medicine (SLU SOM) through the Family and Community Medicine Department and the office of Diversity and Student Affairs (SLU DSA) to provide programming for underserved and diverse students in the region.

The Doctors for Diversity Medical Student Interest Group partners to provide mentoring, weekly tutoring, and hands-on supplemental curriculum in health (such as how to take blood pressure while learning about the structure and function of the cardiovascular system) to high school students at the Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience (CSMB), a Saint Louis Public School focused on STEM and health professions. Doctors for Diversity medical students also serve on panels along with other health professionals at CSMB, Cardinal Ritter and Trinity High Schools. During the summer, many of these students attend the Summer Healthcare Career Experience (SHCE), a four-day, three-night program that provides the opportunity for diverse participants to gain perspectives and experience in health professions. Hands-on activities allow participants to interactively learn about pre-health tracks at Truman State University, as well as receive pre-health advisement, clinical opportunities, and practical exposure with A.T. Still University.

ECMO AHEC and SLU AHEC also collaborate to support the Minority Males in Medicine Initiative (MMIM), a 4-week summer experience conceived by SLU medical students, for under-represented minority male high school students in the St. Louis Public Schools. MMIM works with AHEC, SLU medical student mentors from diverse backgrounds, community physicians, youth outreach programs in healthcare systems, and the Saint Louis Public Schools Foundation to provide stipend-supported, multi-specialty physician shadowing and mentoring in medical careers to highly motivated high school students.

West Central Missouri AHEC is partnering with the UMKC School of Nursing to increase the diversity of the healthcare workforce through a five-year grant from the Office of Minority Health that will provide programming to 11 specific high schools in Kansas City that have a high percentage of free-reduced lunch as well as high numbers of minority students. Students at each school must be enrolled in their Project Lead the Way Biomedical courses and will receive one-on-one career counseling and mentoring from AHEC staff, participate in field trips to health professions training programs and area colleges, and attend summer camp at UMKC health professions schools. Students also participate in their school HOSA chapter. The grant allows AHEC staff to provide additional resources and guidance to students to help guide them to be successful in college and health professions training programs.



*Students from the CSMB spend time in the lab at SLU Medical School*

*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***