

HealthLinks

A Newsletter From
Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center

March 1, 2006



EXPLORING the HEALTH PROFESSIONS[®]

... A Hands-on Approach

Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (CHAHEC) is excited to host Exploring the Health Professions[®] on April 7th and May 12th of this year. Exploring the Health Professions[®] is a hands-on, curriculum package and corresponding teacher workshop designed to raise health-care awareness in middle and high school students. The agenda is set up to demonstrate 4 career clusters: • *Direct Patient Care* • *Physical Rehabilitation, Therapy & Fitness* • *Clinical Laboratory Sciences Care* and • *In the Operating Room*. The toolkit, which attendees will use in the exercises, contains demonstrative tools used to execute the procedures routinely performed within each of the career clusters. Each participant will be able to take the toolkit, curriculum activity book, CD, video and posters with them at the completion of the workshop so that they can perform these engaging and educational activities with their students.

• Family and Consumer Sciences Educators • Home and Career Skills Educators • Intro. to Occupations Educators • Science Educators • Health Educators • Community Educators • Hospital Recruiters • Employment Specialists • Health Careers Coordinators • Guidance Counselors • Adult Educators *and* other educators of middle and high school students are invited to participate in our workshop.

Exploring the Health Professions[®] was developed by Central New York AHEC (CNYAHEC) and is designed

to meet New York State Learning Standards in Family and Consumer Sciences, Career Development and Occupational Studies and Health Education.

Previous participants have said, "The workshop was a great experience for me. I have already done one unit and the kids loved it! They especially loved dressing up like a surgeon and learning how to stitch tissue," and "This workshop and toolkit were more wonderful than the flyer conveyed - please promote this as a 'must-do' workshop!"

CHAHEC is offering two opportunities for you to attend this one-day, hands-on workshop. For your convenience, the April 7th workshop will be held in Newburgh, NY, and the May 12th workshop will be held in Oneonta, NY. Pick the location that is best for you!

For more information on CHAHEC Exploring the Health Professions[®], please contact our office at (845) 883-7260 or log onto our website at www.catskillhudsonahec.org/events.html to download a brochure/registration form. We look forward to meeting you there!

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A Partner in the New York State AHEC System

CHAHEC Investigates Continuing Education for Nurses

As reported in a previous edition of *HealthLinks*, CHAHEC's Nursing Summit 2005 was a great success, bringing together over 50 nurses, nurse educators and healthcare professionals throughout CHAHEC's 11-county region. CHAHEC's Nursing Workforce Development Work Group (NWDG) has reviewed the wealth of feedback from Summit attendees and, as a result, has recognized a critical need for continuing education (CE) programs. The three most requested CE topics were Management Training/Development, Preceptor Training and Crisis Management/Critical Thinking Skills. To develop the most effective response, the NWDG recognized a need to obtain more comprehensive information from the region's nurses, such as availability to attend,

program expenses and professional requirements. As a result, CHAHEC developed a Continuing Education Needs Survey, which was distributed in January to a wide range of nurses throughout the CHAHEC region. With the results of this survey, CHAHEC will be able to create appropriate nursing-focused CE programs in 2006-2007.

Based on input from Summit attendees, the NWDG also identified the need for distance learning programs. CHAHEC is currently developing an Online Curriculum Development Survey to determine the availability of distance learning programs throughout our region and the resultant need for faculty training in online curriculum development. Once completed, this survey will be distributed to nurse educators throughout New York State.

CHAHEC Surveys

In the past, CHAHEC has distributed surveys to Nurses, Nurse Educators, Human Resource Directors, Higher Education Facilities and Healthcare Facilities. Although surveys, as a rule, are not generally well-received, CHAHEC would like to assure these professionals that the survey data provides us with valuable information that will guide us in the best direction to enhance the quality of and access to healthcare throughout our 11-county region. We sincerely thank those who have completed our surveys and urge all recipients in the future to help us help you by returning the completed survey to us.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the CHAHEC staff at (845) 883-7260.

CHAHEC Announces the Community Funded Program Awards

CHAHEC recently completed the Community Funded Program Awards process for the 2005-2006 cycle. We would like to congratulate the twenty-five program award recipients for their success and thank all applicants for their dedication and hard work to promote and conduct these important healthcare programs within the CHAHEC region.

Our continued focus is to sponsor programs that train healthcare professionals, connect students enrolled in healthcare education programs with community-based training sites, sponsor and develop programs that expose and inform students and young adults about various careers in healthcare, promote healthcare awareness and develop program initiatives that address crucial local needs across our 11-county region.

Of the 25 programs that were funded, 12 are Pipeline programs, 11 are Recruit/Retention programs and 2 are Training programs. Thirteen programs that were previously funded, received funding again during this cycle to help ensure their continued success.

CHAHEC will also conduct its own programs throughout this year, including a new interactive Pipeline program that will be presented to middle school students. The CHAHEC **MyHealthCareer**sm website (www.catskillhudsonahec.org) is scheduled to launch in early April 2006 (see detailed article in *CHAHEC News*) and we are also in the process of replicating both the EMS Leadership Academy and Nursing Summit in 2005, due to their tremendous successes in 2005.

CHAHEC Community Funded Program Awards 2005/2006

Program details are
available on our website,
www.catskillhudsonahec.org/programs.html

- 13th Annual Critical Care Conference - *Bassett Healthcare*
- Dialysis Nurse Teaching Day - *Bassett Healthcare*
- RN Refresher Course - *Bassett Healthcare*
- BENECAMP - *Benedictine Health Foundation*
- Health Careers Behind the Scenes - *Catskill Regional Medical Center*
- Health and Wellness Program - *DCMO BOCES*
- M*A*S*H* Camp - *Delaware Valley Hospital*
- Clinical Education Department Program - *Ellenville Regional Hospital*
- Summer Accelerated RN Degree Program - *Hartwick College*
- E.C.H.O. Program - *Hudson River HealthCare, Inc.*
- Level I Telemetry for CNAs, PCTs and Unit Clerks - *Kingston Hospital*
- Assessing Exposures to Sources of Lead and Toxic Metals - *Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute*
- Medical Student Program - *Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute*
- BS/DO Program - *Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute*
- FASD Prevention - *Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute*
- Health Information Project - *Mid-Hudson Library System*
- Shadow-A-Surgeon - *The Mithoefer Center for Rural Surgery*
- Summer Medical Academy- *ONC BOCES*
- HOSA Program - *Orange-Ulster BOCES*
- Y2Kids Careers from A-Z - *Orange-Ulster BOCES*
- Healthcare Provider Advocate Program - *Otsego School of Practical Nursing*
- Nursing Opportunities - *Sullivan County Center for Workforce Development*
- Project SIM-ulation - *Sullivan County Community College*
- Health Career Exploration Program - *Ulster BOCES*
- 2006 Critical Care Conference Video- *Ulster BOCES / Kingston Hospital*

CHAHEC Continued Program Successes

As previously stated in this newsletter, 13 of the 25 programs that are currently receiving program funding also received assistance during earlier CHAHEC funding cycles. Examples of continued successful programs are Bassett Healthcare's 13th Annual Critical Care Conference as well as Hudson River HealthCare's E.C.H.O. Program.

Now entering its 13th program year, Bassett Healthcare's Critical Care Conference's continued proven success is greatly due to the national level speakers who teach on subjects that are important to nurses in all areas of the hospital setting. One hundred, twenty-three RNs, LPNs, aides, clerks and student nurses attended the 12th Annual Critical Care Conference and 200 attendees are expected to be at this year's Conference.

The E.C.H.O. Program (Exploring Career and Healthcare Opportunities) is a youth development program designed to provide underrepresented teenagers with positive and valu-

able growth and development opportunities as well as hands-on training and exposure to a broad range of opportunities in healthcare. This is accomplished through work placements within Hudson River HealthCare's departments. One-on-one mentoring relationships with Health Center staff is available to increase participant's self-esteem, self sufficiency and awareness of their potential. Last year's attendees included 10 ethnically and racially diverse teenagers. Hudson River Healthcare is expecting 7 participants in this year's program. Since 1995, this program has provided close to 300 underrepresented teenagers with valuable work skills and knowledge of healthcare opportunities.

For more information on any of the past or present CHAHEC funded programs, go to our website at www.catskillhudsonahec.org/programs.html.

CHAHEC News

Roxanna Y. Raffa Joins the CHAHEC Staff



CHAHEC is pleased to welcome the newest member of our staff. Roxanna Y. Raffa, RN joined CHAHEC as Program Development and Education Coordinator in October 2005. “Roxy” is a Registered Nurse with 14 years experience in various clinical settings, including Staff Development. Her previous position as Staff Development Coordinator at Bassett Hospital of Schoharie County has contributed to her expertise in developing and coordinating staff education programs within the hospital setting. Roxy’s focus will be within the general north-em tier of our 11-county region and will work with the CHAHEC staff on clinical program development.

CHAHEC Launches My Health Career™ Site in April 2006

CHAHEC is excited to announce the release of our web-based career exploration program, My Health CareerSM.

Numerous healthcare career resources can be found in the two sections of the My Health CareerSM website: (1) Student and Career Seekers, and (2) Health Professionals.

The “Students and Career Seekers” section, which will be available in early April 2006, is designed to assist middle school students, high school students, college students, adults in career transition, healthcare professionals looking for advanced degree programs as well as career seekers of all ages learn more about healthcare career options and education requirements. It will also offer resources and information on training programs that will help them get started in a healthcare career.

The “Health Professionals” section is cur-

rently under construction and will be released later this year. An announcement of this site’s official launch as well as further information will be provided in a future edition of *HealthLinks*.

Registering on the My Health CareerSM website is free. Limited information, such as name, city, state and zip code is required to complete registration. This information will enable CHAHEC to track usage throughout our 11-county region. Registering on the site will enable each individual to create a personalized, password-protected profile that will allow them to track healthcare careers previously viewed, manage their portfolio of goals and grades as well as register for events listed on the site.

To begin your exploration, go to our website at www.catskillhudsonahec.org and click on the **My Health Career™** icon.

CHAHEC Offers EMS Academy 2006

On August 23, 2006, CHAHEC will conduct its third EMS Leadership Academy. This workshop will be offered as a pre-conference program of the Pulse Check annual conference sponsored by the New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association at the Hudson Valley Spa and Resort in Kerhonkson, New York.

Presentation topics include:

- [Recruitment and Retention](#)
- [The “Alphabet Soup” of EMS](#)
- [Strategic Planning/Quality Improvement](#)
- [Customer Service, Liability, Responsibility and the Elected/Unelected Leader](#)
- [Leaders and Managers](#)

Our speakers provide a wealth of experience and knowledge:

- [Lee Burns, BS, EMT-P, CIC-RF of the State of New York Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Services](#)
- [Jon Politis, NREMT-P, Chief of EMS for the Town of Colonie](#)
- [Robert Delagi, MA, NREMT-P, Chief, Prehospital Medical Operations and Program Agency Director, Suffolk County EMS](#)
- [Joyce Mulleedy, RN, BS, MS, EMT, CIC-RF, Educational Services Coordinator of Adirondack-Appalachian Regional EMS](#)

Registration will be available in April on the CHAHEC website, www.catskillhudsonahec.org/events.html, as well as through direct mailings provided by NYSVARA. You may also contact the CHAHEC office at (845) 883-7260 for additional information. Registration is limited to the first 100 registrants.

Healthcare Career Highlight - Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists



Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists perform complex medical laboratory tests for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. Medical Technologists who work in small laboratories perform many types of tests, whereas those in large laboratories generally specialize.

This occupation requires a four-year Bachelor's degree with a major in medical technology or in one of the life sciences or they have a combination of formal training and work experience.

Universities and hospitals offer medical technology programs. It is also possible to qualify through a combination of education,

on-the-job training and specialized training.

For more information, log onto our website www.catskillhudsonahcec.org and look up Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists on [My Health Career](#)sm.

SPECIALIZED AREAS ARE:

- Clinical Chemistry Technologists
- Microbiology Technologists
- Blood Bank Technologists/Immunohematology Technologists/Phlebotomy Technicians
- Immunology Technologists
- Cytotechnologists
- Molecular Biology Technologists

CHAHEC's Mission

The Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (CHAHEC) enhances the quality of and access to healthcare in its 11-county region using collaborative relationships that support education initiatives that improve the availability, quality, geographic distribution and retention of healthcare personnel. We help provide health career and continuing education opportunities and a diverse, motivated workforce that meets the needs of health providers and underserved communities.

CHAHEC's Board of Directors

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Sharon Dettenrieder — *Hartwick College*
Nancy Noonan — *ONC BOCES*
Dianne Sleight - *Ulster BOCES*
Kevin Ronk — *Health Quest*

CHAHEC's Staff Members

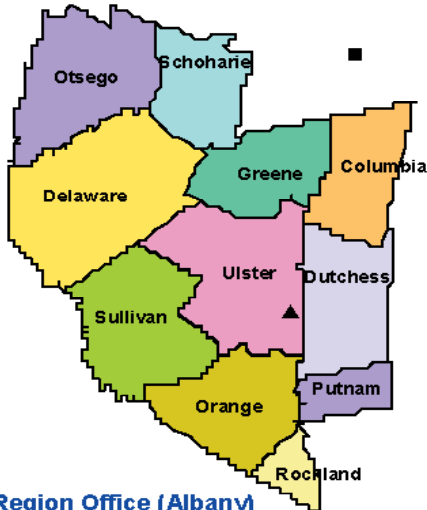
Kathryn R. Reed, CMPE - Executive Director
Katherine Murphy - Project Coordinator
Kirsten Carle - Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Earle - My Health Career Coordinator
Roxanna Y. Raffa, RN - Program Development and
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■ Central Region Office (Albany)

▲ AHEC Center (Highland)

The Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (CHAHEC) is a partner in the New York State AHEC system and is comprised of an eleven (11) county region which includes Delaware, Dutchess, Columbia, Greene, Orange, Otsego, Putnam, Rockland, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster counties.

We are affiliated and work with the other eight (8) New York AHECs which include Northern AHEC, Hudson-Mohawk AHEC, Bronx-Westchester AHEC, Central New York AHEC, Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC, Western New York Rural AHEC, Erie Niagara AHEC and Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC. For further information on any of these AHECs and the counties they serve, log onto the New York State AHEC website at www.ahec.buffalo.edu.



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