



Student/Resident Experiences And Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) Program Summary

SEARCH Program	Eastern Area Health Education Center Collaborative
Organization Type	Workforce development CE, Continuing Educational Organization – n-p
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Website	http://www.eahec.ecu.edu
Project Service Focus	Rural
Length of Rotation	2 weeks
Disciplines eligible for rotation	Medical Residents/Students, Nursing (NP, Midwifery), Health Psychology, Family Therapy
Project Infrastructure Focus	Training
Products and Dissemination	Learning Modules for Preceptors <i>The Health Care Consulting Team</i> Online Course Enhanced Interprofessional Team Rotation Rural Recruitment Match Identification for Student Completers
Stipend/Living Cost	\$2,500
General Description of Your Program	Eastern North Carolina has both a shortage of primary care physicians and worsening health statistics, especially for its African American and Hispanic populations. Recognizing that significant unmet health care needs persist for the millions of individuals without a regular source of care, and with an established and innovative model for primary care delivery, health centers are aiming to reach 30 million patients by the year 2015 under their <i>ACCESS for All America</i> plan. This requires producing the workforce needed to staff current and new delivery sites. A multi-faceted national

	<p>and state course of action must strengthen the pipeline of would-be primary care professionals. Development of a pipeline begins with education of medical residents, Physician Assistant students, nurse practitioners, and the myriad of students pursuing disciplines in mental health. Moreover, education that supports interprofessional team work enhances both the experiences of students and provides the basis upon which new models can be enacted in providing health care in underserved areas.</p> <p>This project is a collaborative among Eastern AHEC, the Office of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Education at East Carolina University, Office of Rural Health and Community Care, North Carolina Community Health Center Association, and various North Carolina Health Agencies charged with improving the recruitment and retention of health professionals in underserved, rural areas. The collaborative is uniquely qualified to handle the requirements specified in this contract based upon past performance and an ongoing commitment to improving the health outcomes of underserved populations.</p>
<p>Activities undertaken by Students/Residents in Program</p>	<p>2. Tasks are proposed to accomplish these objectives:</p> <p><i>a. Participation in an online course as preparation for team learning, community assessment and community partnership.</i></p> <p>Students will learn about rural health collaborative areas and practices through enrollment in IRHE 6100 The Health Care Consulting Team, a three credit hour graduate course offered by East Carolina University. This online course enables students from multiple disciplines to learn about each other as they work in a team environment to provide health consultation to a rural health center in eastern North Carolina. The course which is flexible in design can be tailored to provide education on specific health issues as identified by the community partners. The course will focus on helping students learn team collaboration through a</p>

series of specially designed activities on scopes of practice, workforce formation in underserved areas, and team communication. Moreover, through the course the students will conduct a community health assessment and will determine an intervention strategy that addresses a preventive medicine concern and designed in culturally sensitive ways tailored to their community. Students will work with community partners to maximize health outcomes as well as learning who the community partners are in anticipation of their onsite immersion. Lastly, students will experience technology as a vehicle to enhance health delivery in rural areas. (See Appendix B for a full course syllabus).

Utilization of an online course as preparatory for a field experience has multiple advantages. First, students from multiple discipline find scheduling time together difficult. An online course overcomes this difficulty. Second, an online course extends beyond those students currently on campus. Students from other institutions can eventually enroll in the course thereby extending the reach of this effort far beyond one institution. After the pilot first year, NHSC Scholars from throughout the county can enroll in the online course as a prelude to their summer immersion, here or elsewhere. Third, virtual teams may be the most representative format for interprofessional collaboration in isolated, rural environments. Learning to use this technology to develop teamwork helps to allow transfer of skills in a more realistic fashion than many face to face (co-located team skills). Fourthly, online environments allow for continuous collaboration with onsite partners without the need for travel or prolonged lost time from patients.

b. Students will be placed in one of three rural health centers.

During the online course, students will be grouped into five person teams. These teams who have researched a rural community health needs and formed relationships with key community/clinic

	<p>personnel will be placed in a two week immersion experience at the site. Their experience onsite will be divided between clinical activities with their mentors/preceptors and in providing a health intervention on a need identified through the online assessment.</p> <p>Students will live in the rural environment during their rotation and engage in community activities typical of the rural setting in which they are placed. Our experience has shown that students who live in a rural environment even for as short a period as two weeks begin to bond with the community and its people. Through purposefully planned activities the student team can see the breadth of opportunities that exist in rural communities, from appreciation of close knit family groups to cultural activities of rural festivals and gatherings to recreational programs for themselves and their families. To learn about their patients' needs, students must also experience the context in which their patients live and to respect the community for what it has or can provide its residents.</p>
List of Sites Students can/will be rotating through	TBA