

EASTERN AHEC

*Official Quarterly Newsletter of the Eastern Maine Area Health Education Center
A Partnership of Maine AHEC Network and Healthy Acadia*



WHO WE ARE

Healthy Acadia is thrilled to be partnering with the University of New England to serve as Eastern Maine's Area Health Education Center (AHEC), covering Washington, Hancock, Knox, and Waldo counties. Additional centers are located in Northern Maine, Western Maine, and at UNE's Maine Program Office.

The mission of Maine AHEC is to enhance health equity and reduce health disparities among underserved populations through team and community-based experiential education and strategic partnerships. Maine AHECs provide community-based clinical training experiences to health professions students; encourage Maine youth to pursue careers in the health professions; offer training and continuing education programs to practicing health professionals; and develop public health approaches to address current and emerging community needs.

EASTERN AHEC FOCUS

- Create rural health immersion opportunities for health professions students to learn more about rural and underserved communities.
- Create pathways for middle and high school students to experience health careers while encouraging them to pursue post-secondary education in healthcare fields.
- Support graduate-level health professions students to gain the leadership skills to succeed in their future healthcare fields, with a rural emphasis.
- Collaborate with healthcare partners to provide continuing education programs.



2023 AT A GLANCE

MARCH RHI 2023



In March, 5 UNE Physicians Assistant students experienced the Mount Desert Island region for three days. Among the many activities they explored, they provided a nutrition lesson to young students on Cranberry Island, helped with meal prep at Open Table, took Naloxone training, and spent the day with the team at MDI Hospital learning about the operations of a hospital in rural Maine.

JUNE RHI 2023

In June, Eastern AHEC took 4 medical students from UNE and Tufts to Washington County to experience rural healthcare. They explored a wide variety of healthcare models and saw different communities and their healthcare providers. They started at Pleasant Point Indigenous Lands touring the Passamaquoddy Health Center, followed by a cultural competency training to increase understanding of the Passamaquoddy Tribe. They then spent a day visiting health and community partners in Calais followed by a day in Machias.



OCTOBER RHI 2023

Five UNE students joined Eastern AHEC as we focused on Hancock County rural healthcare and communities. They spent time touring the Blue Hill Hospital, visiting a local farm and a small coastal health center. They were also able to experience lobstering and learn about the unique and proud culture of the lobstering community, physical effects of the industry, and access to rural healthcare.



2023 AT A GLANCE

PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS

In 2023, we hosted a virtual panel of three health professionals who shared their work experiences with a group of Washington County middle school students. The goal was for students to learn about health-related careers as a potential pathway for their futures and to encourage training and education in the health field.



ENHANCED ROTATIONS

In 2023, Eastern AHEC had the honor of supporting 8 medical and PA students in their enhanced rotations at MDI Hospital. We offered them opportunities to engage with community partner agencies that work alongside the hospitals and healthcare facilities to care for our communities.



WHAT'S NEXT IN 2024

We are currently planning a Rural Health Immersion to take place in Waldo County in 2024 with AHEC Scholars from UNE's dental and physical therapy programs. We look forward to sharing highlights next quarter!



THANK YOU!



2023 RHI PARTNERS

Thank you for hosting our students!

Healthy Peninsula
Inspire Recovery Center
King Hill Farm
Maine Seacost Mission
Motahkomikuk Tribal Council
Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory
Mount Desert Island Hospital
MDI Hospital - Northeast Harbor Clinic
Neptune Advantage
Northern Light Blue Hill Hospital
Northern Light Primary Care Castine Clinic
Open Table MDI
Passamaquoddy Health Center
Safe Harbor Recovery Home
Sail Acadia
Sunrise County Economic Council
Tihtiyas "Dee" Sabattus
Washington County Jail

AMHC
Bar Harbor Fire Department
Bar Harbor Police Department
Bear Lodge, Motahkomikuk
Big Game Outfitters
Calais Community Hospital
Common Good Soup Kitchen
Cranberry Isles Rescue Service
Cranberry Isles School
Downeast Community Partners
Eastport Health Care, Inc.

CONTACT US

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