



### West Central Alabama AHEC Award

Great things are happening in West Central Alabama! Representative Terri Sewell delivered TWO checks to the [West Central Alabama AHEC](#) during November's Town hall in Demopolis.

The first award of \$300,000 will help WCAAHEC purchase new equipment and expand the Community Health Worker Program. The CHW program recruits, trains, and deploys CHWs in service area healthcare facilities to bridge the gap between healthcare providers and community members. The expansion of this program includes the recruitment, training, and deployment of four additional community health workers covering four of RCORP's six southwest Alabama counties. These CHWs will serve as essential advocates for underserved and vulnerable individuals, help to increase outcomes for at-risk individuals and their families by offering screening and referral services outside of traditional healthcare facilities, and link together resources for the betterment of the rural areas of Clarke, Choctaw, Marengo, and Sumter counties. CHWs actively reduce the health disparities of vulnerable communities by addressing social determinants of health to fill the gaps between clinical and non-clinical outcomes.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CHW](#)

Substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD) have affected many high-risk rural communities. WCAAHEC will allocate the funds from the Department of Health and Human Services award of \$1,000,000 towards reducing the morbidity and mortality of these disorders. Community education, capacity building, and multi-sector collaborations are essential to combating this epidemic. Funding this initiative will save and better many lives in our rural communities. WCAAHEC is already working on specific objectives to increase the target area's overall capacity for prevention, treatment, and recovery through the Southwest Alabama Opioid Response Project's (SAOR) signature programs.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SAOR](#)



### **East Central Alabama AHEC Event Recap: RAM**

In April 2022, the [East Central Alabama AHEC](#) organized and hosted the first Remote Area Medical Clinic (RAM) within the State of Alabama. The pop-up clinic offered dental, vision, and medical services free of charge to patients regardless of insured status or income. The clinic served 617 unique patients, with many getting two services done during their visit, totaling

\$337,324 in free health care services such as medical, vision, and dental care. Angela Anderson, ECAAHEC's Executive Director, shared that many people who visited the clinic had never seen a doctor. In the months following the clinic, ECAAHEC staff, clinical volunteers, and partners followed up with patients waiting for lab results or referred for follow-up care.

ECAAHEC is working to duplicate the RAM program in other communities in Alabama so others may take advantage of the unrestricted access to care through RAM. Residents of the Auburn area are making arrangements to host the next Alabama RAM clinic in the spring of 2024.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT RAM](#)

# CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

[alahec.org](http://alahec.org)



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

This month we are highlighting [North Alabama AHEC](#) Board Member David L. Bramm, MD FAAFP. Dr. David Bramm has been an invaluable partner to NAAHEC, especially the Health Careers Pathways program. From teaching donning and doffing surgical gear to stitching bananas to fielding questions about medical school, he has made visits to UAB Huntsville a highlight of our summer enrichment camp. Additionally, he has assisted several students in preparing for professional school interviews by giving advice and serving as a mock interviewer. A few years ago, NAAHEC



was privileged to collaborate with Dr. Bramm on a workshop at the National Rural Health Association conference in New Orleans. The presentation was entitled, *Channeling the Flow: Educating Millennials in the Rural Pipeline*, and focused on strategies to successfully move students from academic preparation to serving in the areas of greatest need. His approach is a blend of humor and sincerity. He cares deeply about students and underserved rural communities.

Thank you Dr. Bramm!

## Upcoming Events

[ALAHEC.ORG/EVENTS](http://ALAHEC.ORG/EVENTS)

## Alabama Statewide AHEC Program Advisory Board Meeting

Please note that our Advisory Board Meeting on January 25th will be now be held virtually. For questions please contact Dr. Becky Reamey at [reamey@uab.edu](mailto:reamey@uab.edu).

### AHEC Scholars Day 2023

Join us at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute on January 27th. Led by T. Marie King, scholars will have the opportunity to tour the Birmingham Civil Rights district, workshop and address biases to promote a more inclusive healthcare environment. Southern AHEC Board Member, Erin Lunn, PA-C, MHS will also join us to present on the topic of “How to serve a community that suffers from addiction and get them the care they deserve.”

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

### Save the Date!

The UAB Primary Care Summit 2023 will be held on April 12-14th, at the Hilton Birmingham Downtown at UAB. Stay tuned for more information.

---

[About Alabama AHEC Statewide](#)



The Alabama Statewide Area Health Education Center is dedicated to recruiting, training, and retaining the Alabama healthcare workforce while increasing diversity among health professionals, broadening the distribution of the health workforce, enhancing the quality of care, and improving health care delivery to rural and underserved populations in Alabama.