



Alabama AHEC

STATEWIDE PROGRAM



Family Health and Wellness Fair

North Alabama AHEC partnered with the **Feeding Families of Alabama** food pantry to host the Family Health and Wellness Fair for the communities of Morgan County. Local health organizations and vendors joined the Hartselle food pantry to support this rural community. North Alabama AHEC provided COVID vaccines, tests, and other adult vaccination education. The NAAHEC **Camp LEAP** students volunteered by distributing food on the pantries' monthly distribution day, handing out materials from non-present vendors and dental hygiene products, and informing food pantry clients about the health and wellness fair offerings.

The Family Health and Wellness Fair provided dental screenings, making all the difference for individuals without healthcare. A patron shared that she was under threat of losing her Medicare and expressed that she was in stage 4 kidney failure with several other health issues that have negatively impacted her calcium levels. As a result, her oral health has deteriorated, leaving her with few options to alleviate her pain. Attending the fair and participating in the dental screenings allowed her to receive treatment she desperately needed. Delaying medical procedures is not an uncommon experience within rural and low-income communities. Receiving care can be expensive and daunting; health fairs and free clinics can bridge the healthcare gaps within our state.

Congratulations to North Alabama AHEC on partnering with Feeding Families of Alabama to host such a successful Family Health and Wellness Fair and for providing important resources to rural Alabamians. Keep up the great work!

[Watch the CBS Coverage](#)

West Central Feature on RCORPodcast

We are thrilled to share **West Central Alabama AHEC**'s recent feature on [the Rural Roads - The RCORPodcast](#), where Sue Gadacz, the Technical Expert Lead for West Central Alabama Area Health Education Center (AHEC), took on the role of guest host.

The episode delves into the crucial role of community health workers (CHWs) in rural communities, shedding light on how West Central Alabama AHEC supports CHWs and community-based initiatives to address social determinants of health. Through West Central's efforts, CHWs have made a transformative impact and provided innovative solutions to healthcare challenges in rural Alabama, resulting in improved health outcomes and bridging healthcare gaps.

Take a listen to gain valuable insight into the role of CHWs in rural healthcare and discover the positive contributions made by West Central Alabama AHEC in this regard.

[Listen Here](#)

Training & Grant Opportunities



PAVE Pathways Grant

West Central Alabama AHEC was selected to participate in the [PAVE Pathways Grants](#) application to the Labor Department.

If awarded, West Central Alabama AHEC will participate in NAO's PAVE program, along with 8 other AHECs across the US. PAVE will enhance and expand health career exploration programs, postsecondary education/training, and workforce development opportunities for youth ages 14 to 21 from rural and underserved communities by integrating virtual reality (VR) simulations into their out of school time pathway programs.

NAO will hear if they have been awarded sometime this summer.

[Learn More](#)

ARSHEP Program Recruitment

The [National AHEC Organization](#) is recruiting two AHECs (at least one in the south/southeastern US) to pilot dissemination of the [Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Education Program \(ARSHEP\)](#) curriculum among their network of health care providers and AHEC Scholars program. ARSHEP is a comprehensive educational tool to teach clinical providers about adolescent reproductive and sexual health. The timeline for AHECs to pilot the curriculum is approximately August 2023 through April 2024, though the timetable is flexible if needed. The award amount for each selected AHEC for this project is \$8,000.

Applications must be submitted electronically by 7pm eastern time on July 5, 2023.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

Webinar

Minding the Climate: How Neuroscience Can Help Solve Our Environmental Crisis

When: July 11, 2023 from 3 pm CST

Where: [Zoom](#)

About: In this virtual talk hosted by the Harvard Radcliffe Institute, [Ann-Christine Duhaime](#) RI '16, will speak about her latest book, "Minding the Climate: How Neuroscience Can Help Solve Our Environmental Crisis" (Harvard University Press, 2022). Duhaime is the Nicholas T. Zervas Distinguished Professor of Neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, associate director of the Mass General Center for the Environment and Health, and associate editor-in-chief of the Journal of Climate Change and Health. A practicing board-certified pediatric neurosurgeon, she is deeply interested in environmental issues and the relationship between brain and behavior.

[Learn More & Register](#)



**Announcements &
Calls to Action**



Rural Health-Related Bills Introduced in US Congress

- On May 25, Reps. Smith (R-NE), Blumenauer (D-OR), Armstrong (R-ND), and Tokuda (D-HI) introduced [H.R. 3730](#), the **Rural Health Clinic Burden Reduction Act**. The bill will streamline provisions relating to Rural Health Clinics.
- Earlier in May, Senators Cassidy (R-LA), Cortez Masto (D-NV), Collins (R-ME) and Stabenow (D-MI) introduced the **Protecting Access to Ground Ambulance Medical Services Act**. The bill, [S. 1673](#), ensures rural areas have access to quality emergency ambulance services. The bill assists the ambulance providers with hiring and the retention of EMT staff, updating their equipment, and providing medical care in rural areas.
- Senator Dick Durbin and James Lankford (R-OK) introduced [S. 1571](#), the **Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act**, which restores state authority to waive certain facilities within the 35-mile rule for designating Critical Access Hospitals under Medicare. Here is the [Lankford press release](#).
- Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) and Gary Peters (D-MI) introduced [S. 1560](#), the **Rural Hospital Cybersecurity Enhancement Act**.



2023 NAO BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
AHEC Elevated: Let's Keep Rising!

JUNE 27 - JUNE 30, 2023 | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH | LITTLE AMERICA HOTEL

2023 NAO Biennial Conference

The [NAO 2023 Biennial Conference](#) is on June 27 through June 30th in Salt Lake City, Utah.

On Wednesday, June 28th during Concurrent Session II, Dr. Becky Reamey and Earl Johnson from the Alabama Statewide AHEC Program Office are giving a presentation - "**Your World is Not THE World.**"

Support the Statewide Program Office and listen to their presentation on cultural competency and man-made disparities!

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

alahec.org



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

About Alabama Statewide AHEC



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.