



AHEC Scholars Advisory Committee

On August 3rd, the [Alabama Statewide AHEC Program Office](#) hosted the inaugural meeting of our [AHEC Scholars Advisory Committee](#) at the UAB National Alumni Society. We were honored to welcome the Deans and Instructors of many healthcare professions from colleges across the state. These individuals were asked to garner nominations for potential [AHEC Scholars](#). For this valuable program to thrive, the support of health profession pillars at colleges is essential.

We are thankful to our outstanding AHEC Scholars for participating in our Scholars Panel during the AHEC Scholars Advisory Committee meeting. The Committee members asked the Scholars about their experiences within the program and discussed how they can better support their success. Our excellent AHEC Scholars Panel participants were Da'Jon Stoudemire, Erwinique Brown, Lauren Lee, and Mike Anderson. Below are their Scholars Profiles.



Da'Jon Stoudemire

recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in [Psychology at Stillman College](#). While attending Stillman College, he had the honor of being named the [2022/2023 HBCU White House Initiative Scholar](#). Aside from that, Mr. Stoudemire also participated in the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) [Blazer Brain Research Program](#) where he received his first research experience. He was the 2023 AHEC Scholar of the Year with [West Central Alabama AHEC](#). In the fall of 2023, Mr. Stoudemire plans to attend [Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine](#) with a concentration in Social, Behavioral, and Population Sciences.



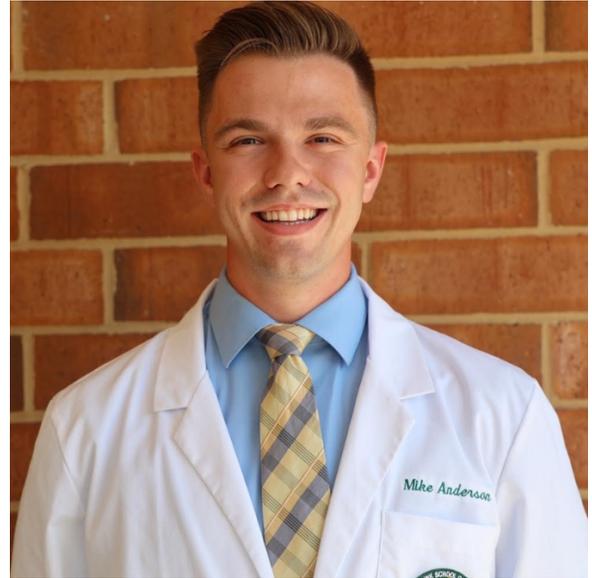
Erwinique Brown

is a second-year graduate student in the [Counseling Program at Alabama A&M](#) and is a [North Alabama AHEC](#) Scholar. Erwinique has set her sights on becoming a licensed professional counselor upon graduating, focusing on mental health and addiction. In this role, she will work as a substance abuse counselor and a therapist for adults seeking individual therapy. During her time in undergrad, Erwinique received a Visionary Award at the completion of the [Maternal and Child Health Internship](#). After gaining experience in the field, Erwinique intends to pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology.



Lauren Lee

is a third-year at the [University of Alabama](#) pursuing a degree in [Education](#). Lauren Lee is a member of the [Black Scholars Program](#) at the University of Alabama. Lauren serves as the President of BASE and the Community Service Director for [HOSA at UA](#). She is a certified personal trainer and Board Certified Phlebotomist. Lauren, after completing her bachelor's degree, will strive towards becoming a Physician Assistant in Family and Sports Medicine. [West Central Alabama AHEC](#) has the honor of calling Lauren one of their Scholars!



Mike Anderson

is a second-year medical student at [UAB Heersink School of Medicine \(UABHSOM\)](#). During the COVID-19 pandemic, he founded UABHSOM student organization [Equal Access Alabama](#) with a mission to expand student clinical experiences through service in underserved areas. He serves as [President of his medical school class](#) and member of the [Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Class of 2022-2023](#). He is an AHEC Scholar with [East Central Alabama AHEC](#). Mike plans to pursue a career in dermatology with a focus on skin cancer prevention and management in underserved areas.

HRSA Site Visit

Alabama Statewide AHEC welcomed the HRSA Project Officers for a week of all things AHEC! The **HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)** strengthens the health workforce and connects skilled health care providers to communities in need. Along with the Statewide Program Office, our HRSA Project Officers traveled across the state to see Alabama AHEC in action. We are grateful for the many AHEC stakeholders who participated in events throughout the week. The visit would not have been as informative or successful without the help of so many. The insights, time, and energy of our Project Officers provided a map for the statewide effort as we work towards a better, well-supported AHEC. We look forward to instilling their recommendations and improving our great organization!

North Alabama AHEC and Alabama Statewide AHEC Partner with ConnectionHealth for \$3M Community Health Workers Grant



Image Description: Joe Crozier, North Alabama AHEC Executive Director stands with the leaders of Connection Health as they partner to take on the recently-awarded HRSA-funded Community Health Workers grant project.

Our Program Office was featured in a recent [Birmingham Business Journal](#) article recognizing [ConnectionHealth's](#) new Community Health Workers grant. The Alabama Statewide AHEC Program Office, **North Alabama AHEC**, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham is partnering with [ConnectionHealth](#) to implement their recently received grant to recruit and train Community Health Workers. [NAAHEC](#) will coordinate the apprenticeship program. If you are interested in hosting an apprentice, contact **Joe Crozier**, Executive Director of [NAAHEC](#).

[Read More](#)

Earl Johnson Departs from Alabama Statewide AHEC



It is with mixed emotions that we share the news of **Earl Johnson's** departure from Alabama Statewide AHEC. After two years of dedicated service and unwavering commitment to the Alabama Statewide AHEC Program Office and five years of service to West Central Alabama AHEC, Earl has decided to pursue a new chapter in his public health career. Earl has been an invaluable team member during his time here, consistently delivering outstanding results and contributing significantly to our success. His professionalism, expertise, and positive attitude have left an indelible mark on AHEC, and he will be sorely missed.

We wish Earl Johnson the best in all his future endeavors, and although we bid farewell, we know his contributions will continue to inspire us. Please join us in thanking Earl for his outstanding contributions and wishing him every success in his future endeavors.

- Alabama Statewide AHEC Program Office

“

Leaving AHEC is not just the end of a chapter; It's the beginning of an exciting new journey. My heart is filled with gratitude and a profound sense of accomplishment. The knowledge, skills, and experiences gained here will forever shape my professional trajectory. AHEC has been a nurturing environment that allowed me to grow, learn, and make a meaningful impact in the healthcare community.

As I embark on a new chapter in my career, I carry with me the invaluable lessons and experiences gained at AHEC. I am confident that the skills and knowledge acquired here will serve as a solid foundation for the exciting opportunities that await me. I am excited to continue making a difference in the public health field, utilizing the expertise and passion for rural Alabama nurtured during my time at AHEC. I leave with cherished memories, lifelong friendships, and deep sense of gratitude. Though my time at AHEC may have come to an end, the impact it has had on my life will forever endure."

Earl Johnson

Learning Opportunities

2023 Alabama Health Policy Summit

When: Sep 14, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Where: The Club, Birmingham, AL

About This Event

The Alabama Health Policy Summit will delve into a broad range of topics, from the latest advances in medical research to the challenges facing rural healthcare providers. Attendees can expect to gain insights from a diverse group of experts, including physicians, nurses, healthcare administrators, patient advocates, and policymakers.

Alabama Statewide AHEC is serving as one of the sponsors of the 2023 Alabama Health Policy Summit.

[Register](#)

2023 UAB Global Health Symposium: Promoting Equity in Global Health Partnerships

When: Sep 28-29, 2023

Where: Zoom or Hilton Birmingham at UAB

About This Event

This two-day hybrid symposium is a forum to discuss best practices for global health partnerships, promote multi-directional research, training, service, and capacity-building collaborations, and provide a backdrop for participants to engage in dialogue and activities to strengthen partnerships

[Register](#)

Webinar

Road Warriors: The Community Health Worker's Vital Role in Rural Health Care Delivery

When: Sep 21, 2023 at 12:00 PM CST

Where: Zoom

About This Webinar

The demand for Community Health Workers (CHWs) is increasing as health insurance providers and care provider organizations realize their potential to connect underserved and under-resourced individuals to much-needed, often inaccessible care. Specifically, when supporting rural populations, CHWs play a critical role as a point of entry and a core part of a care team who supports these members in the places they call home.

This webinar will expand each attendee's understanding of CHWs and how to integrate them into care teams to better support rural populations. It will also provide best practices for organizations who want to take steps forward to address health equity and SDOH needs.

[Register](#)

Webinar

Social Determinants of Health: Moving Beyond Data to Action

When: Sep 27, 2023 at 12:00 PM CST

Where: Zoom

About This Webinar

Nationally, on a county-by-county basis, social determinants of health (SDOH) have a much greater impact on health outcomes than access to and quality of clinical care. Health insurance providers and payers are under increasing pressure to address these issues to control costs and meet regulatory requirements.

As the type and quality of data related to SDOH expands, new opportunities become available to payers and health solution providers. We can now understand the types of social risks members face and use the data to develop scalable solutions that enhance the member experience, improve health outcomes, lower health care costs, and complement hyperlocal solutions.

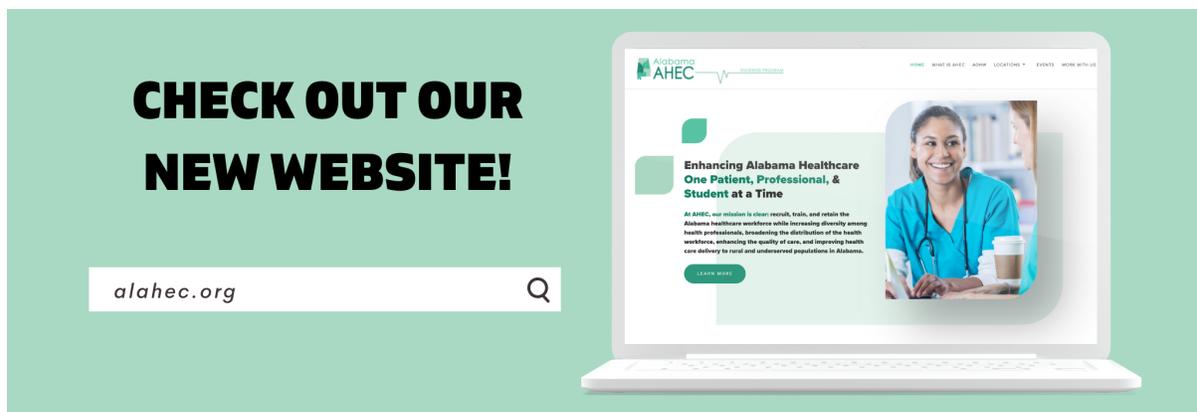
Register

Presentation Access

NAO Biennial Conference Presentations Available

Many have requested access to presentations you attended or might not have been able to attend at the recent NAO Biennial Conference in Salt Lake City, UT. Those are available to you by logging onto the member platform, click on Groups, and locate the group Resources: 2023 Conference Presentations. Click JOIN and you'll immediately look through the presentations.

NAO Login



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.

The Alabama Statewide Area Health Education Center is funded in part by the **Health Resources and Services Administration**, the federal agency charged with training health professionals and improving health care for people who are geographically isolated, economically disadvantaged or medically vulnerable. The contents of this website are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by

HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.