



## Alabama AHEC Network Welcomes Three New Centers!

The **Alabama AHEC Network** is thrilled to announce the addition of three new centers: **Black Belt Alabama AHEC**, **Delta Alabama AHEC**, and **Wiregrass Alabama AHEC**. These centers will replace the subawards with Southern Alabama AHEC, Southeastern Alabama AHEC, and West Central Alabama AHEC as the federally funded HRSA AHEC Program and nationally recognized Area Health Education Centers.

This transition marks an exciting new chapter for the Alabama AHEC Network. Our new centers are poised to bring innovative programs and expanded resources to underserved communities, furthering our mission to improve the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals through strategic partnerships with academic programs, communities, and professional organizations. We eagerly anticipate the positive impact these changes will bring to Alabama's healthcare landscape. We encourage you to consider partnering with these new centers endorsed and supported by the HRSA AHEC grant and a member of the National AHEC Organization.

## Meet Our New Centers

### Delta Alabama AHEC

Hosted by the Mobile Area Education Foundation



The **Delta Alabama AHEC** is hosted by the [Mobile Area Education Foundation](#) and led by Center Director, Shernita Taylor and Scholars Coordinator, Nagina Inge. Their service region includes Baldwin, Butler, Clarke, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe and Washington counties.

Delta Alabama AHEC, in partnership with the [MAEF Workforce Center](#), offers comprehensive healthcare programming for K-12 students and out-of-school youth aged 18-24. Services include healthcare career exploration and planning, industry tours, job shadowing, and work-based learning opportunities. Additionally, they host seminars featuring healthcare professionals who share their expertise and experiences with participants. To ensure well-rounded development, the Delta Alabama AHEC also provides essential skills training, equipping young individuals with the necessary tools for success in the healthcare field.

## Meet the Delta Alabama AHEC Team



**Shernita Taylor**  
Center Director  
Delta Alabama AHEC

**Shernita Taylor**, is a seasoned professional in workforce development with over a decade of experience dedicated to empowering individuals and fostering community growth. As the Director of Workforce Development at the Mobile Area Education Foundation (MAEF), she established the first stand-alone workforce center for out-of-school youth, providing essential employability skills and career readiness training. Her efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic were recognized as a national best practice in Washington, DC.

Shernita serves on the Board of Directors for Southwest Alabama Partnership for Training and Employment (SWAPTE) and is the Chair of the Economic Development Committee for Mobile Alumnae DST (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.). A member of Leadership Mobile, class of 2024, Shernita has a BS in Business Administration from Faulkner University and various certifications. Her expertise includes developing comprehensive programs, managing teams, and engaging with community partners to support workforce initiatives. Her work has significantly enhanced healthcare workforce development, demonstrated by launching Alabama's first nursing and surgical tech apprenticeship programs. Driven by a

passion for community upliftment, Shernita is committed to connecting individuals to opportunities and creating a brighter future for all.



**Nagina Inge**  
Scholars Coordinator  
Delta Alabama AHEC

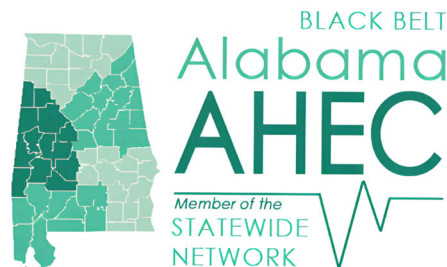
**Nagina Inge**, graduated from the University of Mobile in 2008 with a BS in Organizational Management and a minor in Leadership Development. She began her Workforce Development career in 2022 as a Program Manager with the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council (SAWDC), managing the Healthcare cluster and building partnerships with healthcare providers, career coaches, and academy specialists.

Nagina's success in this role led to her position as a Health Career Navigator with Southern Alabama AHEC, where she collaborated with high schools and industry partners to provide students with job shadowing, college tours, workshops, and participation in career and health fairs. Passionate about helping students discover and pursue their career aspirations, Nagina is dedicated to supporting the next generation of healthcare professionals.

## **Black Belt Alabama AHEC**

Hosted by the University of West Alabama

Led by Center Director, LaWanda Prestage and Scholars Coordinator, Armisha Perry, the **Black Belt Alabama AHEC** is hosted by the [University of West Alabama](#). Their service region includes Bibb, Choctaw, Dallas, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, and Wilcox Counties.



The Black Belt AHEC is already contributing to the mission of AHEC through efforts listed below.

- **Health Fairs and Screenings:** Trainees organized and participated in multiple health fairs, providing free health screenings, education, and resources to the community. These events helped raise awareness about preventive healthcare and the importance of regular check-ups.
- **Clinical Partnerships:** Clinical partnerships were established with local healthcare providers to offer trainees hands-on experience in real-world settings. These partnerships are crucial for practical training

and skill development, while ensuring participants are well-prepared for their roles.

- Volunteer Programs: trainees actively participated in volunteer programs at local hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics. These experiences not only provided practical training but also fostered a sense of community service and engagement.

## Meet the Black Belt Alabama AHEC Team

**LaWanda Prestage** has a dynamic background in nursing, psychology, counseling, and education. She began her career in 1997 with an associate degree in nursing from The University of West Alabama (UWA). Her diverse nursing experience includes multiple disciplines and she has served as a Mental Health Nurse Case Manager/Therapist and Behavioral Health/Geri-Psych/Forensic Charge Nurse.



**LaWanda Prestage**  
Center Director  
Black Belt Alabama AHEC

Transitioning into education, LaWanda became a health science teacher, enriching students' learning experiences through career and technical education. As the Director of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program at UWA, she supports Alabama WIOA's mission to enhance workforce development and empower individuals economically. Her dedication aligns with Alabama AHEC's goal of promoting equitable healthcare access, demonstrated through her roles in healthcare and education, where she has served diverse populations and addressed various health and wellness challenges. LaWanda's commitment to community engagement, lifelong learning, and health equity positions her as a valuable asset in advancing the Alabama AHEC Network's mission.

**Armisha Perry** is deeply committed to community service and workforce development. Her career includes roles with the Department of Human Resources, West Alabama Mental Health, and the Workforce Division at the University of West Alabama, where she has honed her skills in crisis intervention and workforce development. Armisha has collaborated with a diverse array of community and government stakeholders, enhancing her ability to address the needs of underserved populations. A notable achievement is her role in designing and implementing a healthcare workforce training program that provided vital skills and addressed workforce shortages. She has successfully organized community events such as job fairs, health fairs, and outreach events, reflecting her strong organizational and leadership abilities. Her psychological insight and practical experience make her adept at creating effective and compassionate programs, aligning with the mission of the Alabama AHEC Network to enhance healthcare access, education, and workforce development.

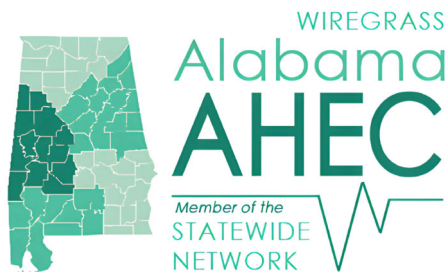


**Armisha Perry**  
Scholars Coordinator  
Black Belt Alabama AHEC

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## Wiregrass Alabama AHEC

Hosted by Troy University



Hosted by [Troy University's](#) Dothan campus and currently led by Dr. LaGary Carter; the **Wiregrass Alabama AHEC** service region includes Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Coffee, Dale, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, Pike, and Russell Counties.

The Wiregrass Alabama AHEC is already able to offer a variety of certificate programs, business and industry training, along with personal and professional development training. The following are offered in the arena of healthcare:

- Community Health Worker Training Program
- CBCS Medical Billing and Coding (voucher included)
- Certified Personal Trainer (voucher included)
- Pharmacy Technician (voucher included)

In addition, The Alabama AHEC Network looks forward to furthering our partnership with Troy University to further train Continuing Health Workers (CHW's).

## Wiregrass Alabama AHEC is Hiring

The Wiregrass Alabama AHEC is looking to hire an Center Director and Scholars Coordinator.

[Apply for the Center Director Position Here](#)

[Apply for the Scholars Coordinator Position Here](#)

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### About Alabama AHEC Network



The Alabama AHEC Network 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 AHEC Network 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.*