



## Alabama AHEC Network Updates

### Alabama AHEC Network Welcomes Dr. Becky Reamey as Director



We are pleased to announce that Becky Reamey, Ph.D., has been promoted to Director of [Alabama AHEC Network](#). Dr. Reamey joined the team in late 2021, initially as Associate Director and later as Interim Director, bringing with her a deep commitment to education, research, and workforce development.

Dr. Reamey holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education from The University of Alabama, with a focus on student development, leadership, and workforce development.

She also completed a postdoctoral appointment at [UA's Center for Community-Based Partnerships](#) within the Division of Community Affairs.

During her time with Alabama AHEC, Dr. Reamey has overseen critical program management and has played a vital role in advancing initiatives focused on training, retaining, and strengthening Alabama's rural healthcare workforce. She has spearheaded efforts to establish the [Alabama Preceptor Tax Incentive Program \(APTIP\)](#) and successfully secured additional state funding to support healthcare workforce development initiatives. Dr. Reamey has also been actively involved in the initial planning for the [Alabama School of Healthcare Sciences](#). Most recently, she has led efforts to support our statewide network, successfully identifying and onboarding three new Centers.

We look forward to the continued growth and development of the Alabama AHEC Network under Dr. Reamey's leadership!

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## Alabama AHEC Scholars



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### Announcing the Start of the Alabama AHEC Scholars Program

The [Alabama AHEC Scholars Program](#) officially launched a new year on October 16th and we anticipate a year of growth, collaboration, and service. We are thrilled to welcome **108 dedicated AHEC Scholars** to this year's program! Each scholar brings unique skills and a shared commitment to improving healthcare access in Alabama's rural and underserved communities. Through immersive, hands-on experiences, our scholars will strengthen their skills and gain invaluable insights into healthcare needs across Alabama's rural and underserved communities.

Our kickoff sessions on October 18th and October 21st brought together a fantastic turnout, with **56** and **67 attendees** respectively. Scholars had the opportunity to connect, discuss program expectations, explore upcoming events, and learn about the many unique opportunities ahead. It was an exciting start to the year, setting a strong foundation for growth and collaboration. We look forward to the journey ahead as we work together to make a lasting impact in healthcare across Alabama!

Below, we are proud to highlight 5 exceptional incoming Scholars—one from each of our centers—who are committed to making a positive impact in the healthcare field. Please join us in celebrating their dedication and potential!

### Spotlighting Cohort 7 Alabama AHEC Scholars

**Nikolete Hurrinus**

*Wiregrass Alabama AHEC  
Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine*

"I'm particularly excited about the Alabama AHEC Scholars Program because it aligns with my goals of serving rural and underserved communities and advocating for better access to care. The program's focus on interprofessional education and community-based experiences speaks to my belief that collaboration among healthcare professionals is key to providing comprehensive care. I look forward to learning from experienced mentors and connecting with peers who share my passion for health equity. The insights I plan to gain from the Alabama AHEC Scholars Program will be invaluable as I navigate the unique challenges faced by diverse populations in my future career."

**Ivan Rios-Morales**

*North Alabama AHEC  
University of Alabama at Huntsville  
Nurse Practitioner*

"Working in North Alabama has been particularly meaningful for me. This region, especially in the rural areas, has a large population of underserved and underrepresented communities, including many Latino families. As an immigrant myself, I feel a deep connection to the struggles these families face in accessing healthcare. Many are hesitant to seek medical care due to fear, lack of trust, or simply not knowing where to turn. I believe that as an FNP, I am uniquely positioned to make a difference, not only because of my medical expertise but also because of my shared cultural background and understanding of their needs. Joining the Alabama AHEC Scholars Program is an exciting opportunity to enhance my ability to serve these communities."

**Trevante Jones**

*Delta Alabama AHEC  
Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy at University of South Alabama  
Pharmacy*

"Joining the Alabama AHEC Scholars Program is a significant step for me, as I believe it will equip me with the necessary resources and tools to fulfill my dream of serving as a pharmacist in my community. Growing up in the Happy Hill project, I have firsthand experience of the negative impact of health illiteracy and the absence of a trusted healthcare professional. This absence can significantly impact an individual's health. The AHEC mission to enhance access to quality healthcare by improving the distribution of healthcare professionals resonates deeply with me, and I am committed to embodying this mission for the people in the Happy Hill projects, Africatown, and the Plateau community upon my graduation."

### **Alejandra Cortes-Espino**

*Black Belt Alabama AHEC*

*University of Alabama*

*Nurse Practitioner*

"The Alabama AHEC Scholars Program is essential in helping me academically and professionally as a nurse practitioner. I will strengthen my capacity to provide excellent patient care by bridging theoretical knowledge with practical abilities through organized clinical rotations and experiential learning. The program's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration will improve my understanding of healthcare delivery and foster effective communication with various professionals. Furthermore, the program provides vital networking and mentorship opportunities, guiding and supporting me as I pursue my career goals. By participating in this program, I will develop vital skills, become a lifelong learner, and make a meaningful contribution to the healthcare community."

### **Markayla Peoples**

*East Central Alabama AHEC*

*University of Alabama at Birmingham*

*Optometry*

"Through my schools' provision of free vision screenings and comprehensive care to treat Alabama's most vulnerable populations, I am able to work with individuals of various ages, races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

This experience has enhanced my awareness of the barriers and hardships many face in receiving quality health care. I am confident that the Alabama AHEC Scholars Program will provide me with a unique opportunity to work closely with Alabama's rural and underserved populations in which I can become equipped with the knowledge and skills to serve as a community healthcare leader. It is my desire to serve as an advocate serving to promote health and improve the quality of life for all."

**We are still accepting applications for the AHEC Scholars Program!  
Please nominate, refer, and share this program with students or peers  
interested in rural healthcare!**

[Learn More about AHEC Scholars](#)

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## Alabama AHEC Center Updates

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### North Alabama AHEC and the Pri-Med P.A.C.T Project with NAO

North Alabama AHEC has been selected as one of eight AHEC centers across the country to participate in the prestigious **Pri-Med P.A.C.T. (Practical Approaches to Comprehensive Treatment of Pain)** initiative, in collaboration with the **National AHEC Organization (NAO)**. The goal of this project is to recruit **30 healthcare providers** from under-resourced communities, particularly those serving rural populations, to complete a specialized 4-hour Continuing Medical Education (CME) training series. The course, hosted by Pri-Med, will equip providers with practical, evidence-based strategies to manage and treat chronic pain comprehensively.

This selection underscores North Alabama AHEC's ongoing commitment to improving healthcare access and outcomes in underserved regions, where resources are often limited, and pain management can be challenging. By empowering local providers with advanced training in pain treatment, NAAHEC aims to address critical healthcare gaps in these communities.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to North Alabama AHEC for being awarded this opportunity, and we are eager to witness the positive impact this initiative will have on healthcare delivery in the region!

If you are a healthcare provider and would like to participate please reach out to Karen Leeling at North Alabama AHEC.

Contact NAAHEC

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## East Central Alabama AHEC Mental Health Conference



East Central Alabama AHEC, in partnership with Gadsden State Community College and Gadsden Regional Medical Center, recently sponsored a successful Mental Health Conference at Gadsden State's Wallace Drive Campus. Held on October 18th, the event welcomed approximately **120 attendees**, including healthcare professionals, educators, and first responders, to explore key topics in mental health.

Sessions covered essential topics such as role strain, dementia care planning, grief, and mental wellness in sports, providing participants with valuable strategies and insights. The conference also offered continuing education units, supporting professional growth for all attendees.

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## Alabama AHEC Scholars Program Internship

The [Alabama AHEC Network](#) is seeking an AHEC Scholar Intern to assist with the administration and coordination of the Alabama AHEC Scholars program. The intern will work closely with the Alabama AHEC Scholars Program Director, gaining hands-on experience in program management while supporting key activities such as student engagement, event planning, data management, and communications. This is an excellent opportunity for someone passionate about healthcare education and community impact.

Scope of Work of Student may include one or more of the following:

- AHEC Scholar Application Processing
- Research public health topics, such as population data or disease tracking
- Support program implementation
- Assist in planning public health informational and career-related events
- Assist with other AHEC projects

[Apply](#)

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## Alabama AHEC Network Statewide Advisory Board Nominations

The [Alabama AHEC Network](#) is seeking nominations for individuals to serve on its Statewide Advisory Board. We invite our valued stakeholders and partners to recommend individuals who can contribute their expertise and insights to address the critical workforce challenges facing Alabama's

healthcare system.

The Alabama AHEC Network Advisory Board plays a vital role in guiding the Alabama AHEC Network by fostering a community-focused, multidisciplinary approach to health care training and service delivery. Board members will help identify barriers and opportunities for expanding clinical training into underserved rural and urban areas, develop strategic partnerships, and enhance the overall impact of the Network. We encourage you to nominate individuals who are committed to improving health care access across Alabama, and who can represent the diverse populations and geography of our state. Your nominations will help us build a strong and effective Advisory Board dedicated to advancing health care for all Alabamians.

[Nominate](#)

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## Resources & Education

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### PRECEPTOR REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

***Register NOW for the Alabama Preceptor Tax Incentive Program (APTIP)***

In 2023, Alabama legislature approved the **Alabama Preceptor Tax Incentive Program (APTIP)** to offer a tax deduction to uncompensated healthcare professions preceptors in our State. The goal of the APTIP is to increase medical student training in rural and underserved counties in Alabama.

Administered by the [Alabama AHEC Network](#), APTIP provides a \$500 income tax credit incentive for each 160-hour clinical preceptorship rotation per calendar year for what would otherwise be unpaid work by community-based preceptors who meet eligibility requirements.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

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### Student Rotations Housing Form

The [Alabama AHEC Network](#) frequently receives requests from students seeking housing in rural areas while they complete training rotations. If you



know of potential housing availability for learners, please fill out the form below so that we may share this information with interested students.

[Learn More](#)

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## Graduate Psychology Education Program Grant

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to increase access to behavioral health services in high need and high demand areas.

The Graduate Psychology Education Program (GPE) provides training to doctoral health service psychology students, interns, and postdoctoral residents in integrated, interdisciplinary behavioral health. The program will prepare trainees to provide behavioral health services in community-based primary care settings. The program also supports faculty development in health service psychology.

HRSA will award approximately **\$22.8 million to up to 50 grantees** over a period of **three years** through this funding opportunity.

Eligible applicants:

- Public and private institutions of higher education
- Hospitals and rural health clinics
- HRSA-funded health centers and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Nonprofit organizations
- State and local governments
- Tribal governments and organizations

Applications are due by January 21, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. ET.

[Learn More](#)

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**Learning Opportunities**

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## Providing Medication and Safe Supply for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

**When:** Wednesday, October 30, 2024 from 11:00 AM CST

**Where:** Virtual

### About This Event

During this hour-long session hosted by the [Center on Rural Addiction](#), learn how nurse practitioners are assuming leadership roles to enhance person-centered care and consider the implications for OUD medications in rural and remote settings. The Center on Rural Addiction at the University of Vermont is one of three [FORHP-supported Rural Centers of Excellence](#) on Substance Use Disorders.

Registration

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## Addressing the Intersection of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Substance Use in Maternal Health Care

**When:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 from 1:00 PM CST

**Where:** Virtual

### About This Event

[HRSA's Office of Women's Health](#) is hosting an hour-long session to discuss the National Strategy to Improve Maternal Mental Health as well as initiatives integrating prevention and care for IPV, substance use, and maternal health. FORHP-funded research published in August 2023 reports [higher rates of perinatal IPV for rural residents](#) compared with their urban counterparts. Earlier this year, a report in The American Journal of Public Health identified intimate partner violence (IPV) as [a leading cause of maternal mortality](#).

Registration

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## Advancing Rural Health: Utilizing the Rural Health Framework as a New Tool

**When:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM CST

**Where:** Webinar

### About This Event

This [National AHEC Organization \(NAO\)](#) webinar honoring [National Rural](#)

**Health Day** will provide an expanded focus and application of a newly-developed framework for rural health practitioners and community agencies. Dr. Maria Clay and Rebecca Lewis recently co-authored a textbook detailing the Rural Health Framework developed as a model resource tool to expand services for the complex and multi-dimensional needs specific to this rural target population. *Rural Health: A Framework for Understanding the Issues and Their Impact on Rural Populations* identifies expanded and diverse factors that affect health care access and health status of individuals who live in rural areas.

Registration

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## November AHEC Scholars Webinar

**When:** Friday, November 15, 2024 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CST  
**Where:** Virtual

### About This Event

The November AHEC Scholars Webinar will be hosted by a Florida AHEC Scholar Alumni, Dr. Tulsi Patel, DO, MSMEd.

In "Service in Underserved Communities in Relation to Social Determinants of Health," we will explore the importance of volunteerism in Medicine, especially in underserved communities. Volunteering brings us awareness of the particular lack of resources in an underserved community. The awareness allows us to orient ourselves towards more adapted solutions to provide the absent resources distinct to the people we serve. When we focus on the community's specific needs, people can have better access to care while limiting the effects of various social determinants of health.

*Alabama AHEC Scholars will earn 1 hour of experiential learning.*

Registration

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## Mini Infection Prevention Bootcamp for Central Alabama Regional Long-Term Care Facilities in Shelby County, AL and Surrounding Areas

**When:** Monday, November 18, 2024 from 10:00 AM – 1:15 PM  
**Where:** Parnell Memorial Library - 227 Park Dr. Montevallo, AL 35115

### About This Event

The **Deep South Center for OH&S** is hosting a training program designed for infection prevention and control professionals working in Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) in Alabama. The aim of the course is to educate LTCF

personnel on the regulations surrounding detection, testing and reporting, in line with ADPH guidance. Secondly, to equip healthcare staff with the essential knowledge and resources necessary to establish and maintain an effective and comprehensive respiratory protection program in their facility. Participants will explore the significance of a respiratory protection program, gain insights into OSHA regulations regarding both initial and annual N-95 fit testing, as well as the necessary documentation procedures for staff members. Each licensed facility that registers to attend before November 4th will receive one free N-95 Test Kit for use in their facility.

*Alabama AHEC Network is sponsoring this event.*

*The Deep South Center for OH&S is an approved provider of continuing education units for nurses by the AL Board of Nursing (Provider ABNP0420 Expiration Date 7/10/2025) and has awarded this program 3.6 ABN CEUs. All other professionals awarded .3 CEUs.*

*The Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators has reviewed and approved the seminar entitled “Mini Infection Prevention Bootcamp for Central district Alabama Regional Long-Term Care Facilities” for 3 hours of continuing education credit for licensed nursing home administrators in the State of Alabama.*

Registration

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## Social Connectedness and Improving the Health of Rural Communities

**When:** Wednesday, November 20, 2024 from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM CST

**Where:** Virtual

### About This Event

The [National Library of Medicine](#) is hosting a webinar on how social isolation and loneliness are major risk factors for poor health and mortality. Many members of rural communities are at risk for social isolation and therefore also at risk for poor health and quality of life. Global community health research has identified strategies to reduce social isolation and to promote wellbeing in rural communities. This presentation will review possible interventions for improving rural community health through social connectedness.

[NIM is hosting Rural Health Webinar series all throughout the month of November. Check here for other events.](#)

Registration

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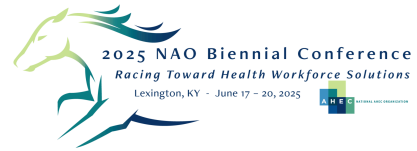
## 2025 NAO Biennial Conference

**When:** June 17-20, 2025

**Where:** Lexington, Kentucky

### About This Event

The 2025 NAO Biennial Conference just got announced. It will be hosted in Lexington Kentucky on June 17-20th. Look out for more updates!



Registration

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## Narcan Training

**When:** Open Enrollment

**Where:** Online

### About This Program

Sign up for the free online Naloxone training program, provided by the [Jefferson County Department of Health](#). By gaining the necessary knowledge and abilities to administer Naloxone, you'll be equipped to reverse opioid overdoses and potentially make a life-saving difference.



Registration



# VISIT OUR WEBSITE



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



Visit Our Website

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## About Alabama AHEC Network



The Alabama AHEC Network is dedicated to recruiting, training, and retaining the Alabama healthcare workforce while expanding variety 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 following centers are members of the Alabama AHEC Network and are federally funded HRSA AHEC Programs and nationally recognized Area Health Education Centers: Alabama Statewide Network Program Office, North Alabama AHEC (NAAHEC), East Central Alabama AHEC (ECAAHEC), Black Belt Alabama AHEC (BBAHEC), Wiregrass Alabama AHEC (WAAHEC), and Delta Alabama AHEC (DAAHEC).