

ALABAMA AHEC NETWORK STATEWIDE MEETING & TRAINING

Alabama AHEC Network Kicks Off the Year with Statewide Meeting

On August 20th and 21st, the [Alabama AHEC Network](#) hosted the annual joint Statewide Advisory Board and statewide center staff meeting, bringing together members from all five regional centers. Delta Alabama AHEC, Black Belt Alabama AHEC, and Wiregrass Alabama AHEC joined [North Alabama AHEC](#) and [East Central Alabama AHEC](#) to discuss strategies for launching a successful year. This two-day event reinforced the importance of teamwork and shared vision as Alabama AHEC Network continues to expand its impact across the state.

The event began with an Advisory Board meeting focused on engaging community partners to expand healthcare access across Alabama. The afternoon featured team-building activities to foster collaboration and strengthen connections among the new and existing centers.



Participants enjoyed a cooking class at the Grand Bohemian Hotel, where they bonded over preparing and sharing a meal together. The next morning, discussions centered on strategic planning, best practices, and tools for building effective community networks. We are excited for what this new year holds for Alabama AHEC Network!



Recruiting for Alabama AHEC Scholars Program

If you know a healthcare student who would be a great candidate for the [Alabama AHEC Scholars Program](#), approach them by highlighting their strengths and passion for serving others. Emphasize how the program offers unique hands-on experience, professional networking, and personal growth opportunities that align with their career goals. Encourage them to explore the application process.

Benefits of Becoming an AHEC Scholar

Hands-On Experience

Gain practical skills through community-based clinical work in underserved areas.

Career Development

Gain access to workshops, seminars, and hands-on activities designed to refine essential skills like communication, teamwork, and critical thinking, equipping them to meet the demands of future healthcare careers.

Flexible Learning

Benefit from a mix of online modules and in-person workshops tailored to your region.

Emerging Issues Focus

Stay current on issues facing Alabamians' health.

Financial Support

AHEC Scholars receive a \$500 stipend annually, along with housing and mileage reimbursements for clinical rotations in rural areas, easing financial burdens and supporting your commitment to underserved communities.

Leadership Opportunities

Participate in statewide leadership roles, providing a platform to influence community impact and gain valuable leadership experience.

Interprofessional Learning Collaborate with peers from various healthcare fields, enhancing teamwork and communication.

Personal Growth

Develop cultural competence, leadership, and a commitment to health equity.

Community Impact

Make a difference by providing care to vulnerable populations in settings like free clinics, shelters, and health fairs.

Long-Term Value

Stand out in residency and job applications with specialized experience in underserved care.

Health Certification Training/Digital Badge Offerings

Engage in opportunities to earn health-related certifications and digital badges, enhancing your professional skillset and making you more competitive in the job market.

Mock Interviews and Career Preparation

The program includes mock interview sessions with feedback from professionals, helping you to hone your interview skills and confidently prepare for the job market.

Eligibility

Currently be enrolled in a health professions program with a minimum 2.5 GPA in one of the following fields:

- Medicine (MD/DO)
- Dentistry
- Clinical Psychology (PhD)
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Nurse Midwifery
- Pharmacy
- Optometry

**If you are interested in applying for the Scholars Program and your discipline is not listed above, please contact Rachel Watts at rwatts3@uab.edu.*

For More Information & to Apply

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

Welcoming a New Member to Alabama AHEC Network

We are thrilled to announce an exciting new addition to our Network! Wiregrass Alabama AHEC has welcomed Dr. Ian McFadden as the new Center Director. Dr. McFadden brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to the role, and we're eager to see the innovative approaches he will introduce.

We look forward to the great contributions Dr. McFadden will bring to our Network and the positive impact he will have on our programs and communities.

Meet our New Member



Dr. Ian McFadden is originally from Mobile, Alabama and is excited about the opportunity to return to Alabama. He brings a wealth of healthcare knowledge and over 40 years of experience to this role. He has devoted his career to serving rural and underserved communities as a hospital and healthcare senior executive and CEO throughout the USA and in the Middle East. He has served hospitals and health systems in several States including Tennessee, New Jersey, California, Kentucky, Illinois and

Indiana, primarily specializing in performance improvement and patient experience. During this time, he also served on the adjunct faculty at The University of Memphis and at Governor's State University. Prior to his retirement from hospital operations in 2023, he most recently served as the CEO for Sweetwater Hospital Association in Sweetwater, TN.

Dr. McFadden is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. He holds a D.Sc. and MSHA degrees from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He also holds an MBA from the University of Memphis and a B.S. in Health Care Management from the University of Alabama. Ian is married to Angela, his wife of 39 years and they have 3 children and several pets.

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](#)

Wiregrass Alabama AHEC is Hiring

Wiregrass Alabama AHEC is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Scholars Coordinator to join their team. This role involves overseeing the AHEC Scholars Program, working closely with students, healthcare professionals, and community partners to ensure the program's success. The ideal candidate will be passionate about healthcare education and community outreach, with strong organizational and communication skills. This is an excellent opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the future of healthcare in the Wiregrass region.

[Apply](#)

Resources & Education

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](#)

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](#)

Targeted Technical Assistance for Rural Hospitals Program

Apply by September 30. Applications are being accepted to receive two years of technical assistance through this **FORHP**-supported program for rural hospitals facing financial and operational challenges that affect their viability. Technical assistance for this project is provided by the **Center for Public Health Practice and Research** at the **Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Georgia Southern University**, and will begin in November 2024.

[Learn More](#)

Advocate for Expanded Care for Alabamian Mothers

Grove Hill Memorial Hospital, a rural hospital in south Alabama, [closed its labor and delivery department this past month](#). As a result, women in the area may face drives of over an hour to reach a facility for childbirth, posing serious risks to both mothers and their babies. In recent years, Alabama has seen a continuous trend of labor and delivery department closures, leading to the emergence of multiple maternity care deserts across the state. [Alabama Arise](#) has provided a [fact sheet](#) outline the issues facing maternal health in Alabama.

Take Action

Learning Opportunities

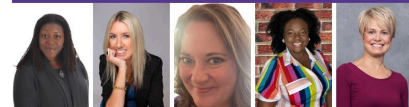
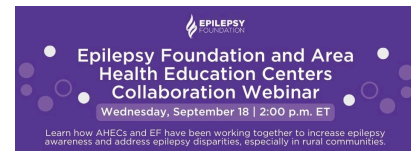
Epilepsy Foundation Partnership With AHEC Training

When: Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 1 pm CST

Where: Virtual

About This Event

Join [NAO](#) to learn how AHECs and the [Epilepsy Foundation](#) have been working together to increase epilepsy awareness and address epilepsy disparities, especially in rural communities. Find out how to bring epilepsy awareness to your community.



Tawmilla Casart, MPH
Multicultural Outreach
Senior Director
Epilepsy Foundation
Moderator

Lita W. Tantor
Chief Learning Officer
SE Louisiana AHEC

Beth Stevens, MS
Executive Director
Epilepsy Foundation
Kentucky

Alayna McClain, MPH
President
The Health Education
Center (CT)

Cherie Palmer, MBA
Epilepsy Advocate and
Former AHEC & EF
Executive Director

[Click Here to Register](#)

Registration

The Economic Impact of Rural Healthcare

When: Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 12 pm CST

Where: UAB National Alumni Society House, Ballroom, Birmingham, Alabama

About This Event

Since 2020, rural hospitals in Alabama have lost more than \$1.5 billion since the start of the pandemic - more than any other state. According to the [Alabama Hospital Association](#), more than a dozen of the state's 51 rural hospitals are at risk of imminent closure due to economic troubles. Doug Brewer, CEO of [Whitfield-Memorial Hospital](#) in Demopolis, Ala., joins the [Lister Hill Center for Health Policy](#) to discuss the economic impact of rural hospitals and their importance in our most vulnerable communities.

Registration

NAO Fall Town Hall

When: Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 2 pm CST

Where: Virtual

About This Event

Join the [NAO](#) team and the membership committee are pleased to invite you to one of their most popular events - the NAO (virtual) Membership Town Hall.



NAO Town Halls provide members the opportunity to receive updates on key aspects of the organization while getting the chance interact with NAO staff and other members.

The 2024 Fall Town Hall, held Oct. 9 at 3 p.m. ET, will feature a discussion about the 2025 Biennial Conference in Lexington, KY. They'll cover everything you will want to know about the venue, presentations, awards, registration, special events, and more.

You have to be an NAO member to register.

Registration

2024 Alabama Health Policy Summit

When: Monday, October 31, 2024, 10 am - 3:30 pm

Where: The Club, Birmingham, AL

About This Event

The Alabama Health Policy Summit (2.0) registration is now open. [ACHE](#)'s exciting program lineup this year includes discussions of the health care landscape from both federal and state representatives, a review of the current status of health care in the state of Alabama by the [Alabama Hospital Association](#), a policy dialogue on telehealth, ethical considerations and policy implications with artificial intelligence, and more.

Registration

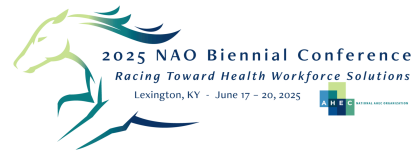
2025 NAO Biennial Conference

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

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



Visit Our Website

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 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).