Supporting Primary Care Workforce Development in Connecticut By:

► Promoting Strong Community/Academic Partnerships

► Creating Pipeline Programs for Pre-Health Professions Students

► Supporting Health Careers Awareness Programming

Health Professions Trainees Coach Secondary Students

As a part of the CT AHEC Network’s health careers awareness initiative, the Biomedical Engineering (BME) Discovery Program connects secondary school students interested in science, technology, engineering and/or math to health
professions trainees in relevant fields. By engaging the students throughout a day of activities, the health professions trainees increase the students’ understanding of biomedical engineering in the health-care field as well as the students’ knowledge of different health professions.

Coached by UConn and Quinnipiac University health professions trainees enrolled in the Urban Service Track interprofessional service-learning program, BME Discovery Program participants design, build and operate models of medical devices while learning about health career opportunities. At a recent session, participants' ability to define several health careers increased by an average of 38%. The parent of a 9th-grade student recently commented, "These seminars are creating a spark of interest in him. . . . Thank you for creating such an excellent and engaging series."

The BME Discovery Program comprises three curricular units: building a hydraulic arm, designing a prosthetic leg, and heart valve engineering.

Since the BME Discovery Program began in June 2014, over 210 students have participated. Future sessions are scheduled for 2016.

The statewide CT AHEC Program, based at UConn Health, is implemented through four regional centers which enable CT AHEC to provide high-quality, efficient, effective and flexible services that meet local needs. Thank you for your continued support of the Connecticut AHEC Program.

Call us at 860-679-7969 or visit: www.publichealth.uconn.edu/ct-ahec.html