



CT AHEC FYI

Connecticut Area Health Education Center Network

Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health.



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
- ▶ Providing Community-Based Training for Health Professions Students
- ▶ Supporting Community-Based Health Education and Screenings
- ▶ Promoting Strategies to

Training Medical, Educational and Community Interpreters Statewide

Training and supporting health care professionals to provide culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate care is even more critical in light of Connecticut's changing demographics. The state's racial and ethnic minority population is significantly increasing, as is the proportion of individuals whose primary language is not English. The Connecticut Area Health Education Center (CT AHEC) Network works with educational,

CT AHEC Network Regional Centers:

Central AHEC, Inc.
(Hartford area)

www.centralctahec.org

Eastern AHEC, Inc. (Willimantic-
New London area)

www.easternctahec.org

Northwestern AHEC, Inc.
(Waterbury area)

www.nwctahec.org

Southwestern AHEC, Inc.
(Stamford-Bridgeport-New
Haven area)

www.swctahec.org

community and state partners to provide continuing education and support to professionals in response to these shifts in the population.

One example of such support is the CT AHEC Network's comprehensive Medical/Community Interpreter Program. Program instructors prepare bilingual health care employees and student trainees to provide appropriate interpretation services between patients, health care staff and health educators in clinical and non-clinical encounters. One former trainee notes that in this "outstanding certificate course, you are challenged to be a professional, well-prepared in the cultural and ethnic backgrounds that make up our communities."

As a result, the Interpreter Program, led by Eastern AHEC in New London and Willimantic, has trained over 350 people as medical interpreters and provided language proficiency testing to over 500 individuals. The U.S. Department of Labor projects a 29% increase in the employment of interpreters and translators from 2014 to 2024, a much higher increase than the average for all occupations. Trained interpreters have been associated with increased clinic utilization, decreased use of emergency department services, and reduced hospital stays.

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

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

