



**UConn  
HEALTH**

**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 Address Health Disparities

## **CT AHEC Connects Communities to Better Oral Health**

The CT AHEC Network supports oral health initiatives in Connecticut in order to promote better overall health and well-being. The CT AHEC Network is involved with oral health education and screenings at health fairs and service events in the state's neediest communities. Specific programs include the Brushing Bunny program, which engages children in pre-K through second grade in conversations about maintaining good dental care habits and what to expect when visiting the dentist, and the popular Smiling Seniors program

## CT AHEC Network Regional Centers:

Central AHEC, Inc.  
(Hartford area)

[www.centralctahec.org](http://www.centralctahec.org)

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

[www.easternctahec.org](http://www.easternctahec.org)

Health360, Inc. (Waterbury  
area) [www.health360.org](http://www.health360.org)

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

[www.swctahec.org](http://www.swctahec.org)

focused on the dental needs of the elderly. CT AHEC is now developing a curriculum to train Community Health Workers in oral health, targeting underserved communities and connecting community members to dental services.

CT AHEC personnel and health professions trainees consult on a variety of oral health issues, including serving on statewide initiatives like the CT Coalition for Oral Health and working on identifying barriers to oral health access in rural and urban communities in the state. Elizabeth Dowd, Director of the CT Department of Public Health's (DPH) Office of Oral Health, attests to the office's valuable partnership with CT AHEC: "Through collaborations with DPH, CT AHEC continues not only to make a significant impact in raising awareness of the importance of oral health and its effect on overall health, but is also making a major contribution to enhancing Community Health Worker knowledge-base and activities related to oral health."

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](http://www.publichealth.uconn.edu/ct-ahec.html)**

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