

*"I've always wondered if I would be cut out for 'small town living' and after this experience I can see that it would be easy to find a place in this community ..."*



Danielle Schroeder  
2012 REHPS Student

See "REHPS to place 18 students ..." on page 2 for 2013 application information.

## Communities ready to welcome REHPS students

Custer, Miller, Parkston, Platte, Redfield, Sisseton, Wagner, Wessington Springs, and Winner are sites for the Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students (REHPS) Program 2013 Summer Experience Program in South Dakota. The REHPS program connects interdisciplinary groups of students enrolled in medical, physician assistant, advanced practice nursing, and pharmacy programs with medical professionals practicing in rural communities throughout the state.

According to Kassy Youmans, REHPS Program Manager, "Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center consults the REHPS Advisory Panel to select healthcare facilities and communities to participate in the 2013 Summer Experience. Results from previous student rotations, quality and excellence of preceptors at the facility, and overall community involvement and support are considered."

The statewide REHPS program is housed within the Yankton Rural AHEC, which focuses on improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals in rural South Dakota. The Yankton Rural



2012 REHPS students, Alyssa Osborn (L) and Miranda Tracy (R) visit Dr. Ed Perry at Redfield.

AHEC works to educate, recruit and retain healthcare professionals practicing in rural communities where needs are greatest.

Sandy Williams, Yankton Rural AHEC Executive Director added, "REHPS will provide an extra opportunity for interdisciplinary teams of health professions students to interact and gain an understanding of what providing healthcare in a rural setting really involves. Preceptors in a facility, representing a variety of professions, share decision-making processes as they care for patients. Their unique perspective enables students to better understand the role each profession plays in direct patient care."

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Teachers, discover how you can bring hands-on learning modules to your classroom. See page 3.

- Yankton Rural AHEC offers exploration tools in-a-box focusing on bones and muscles, hearing, sight, the brain, and the digestive system.



The South Dakota Area Health Education Center (SD AHEC) has a mission to "connect students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health." Established in 2009 through a HRSA grant awarded to the Sanford School of Medicine, the statewide program currently has two centers, the Yankton Rural AHEC and the Northeast AHEC.



## Yankton Scrubs Camp reaches more than 60 students in October

More than 60 students, grades 9 - 12, attended the Scrubs Camp in Yankton on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Fifteen schools representing nearly 20 communities within a 130 mile radius attended. Scrubs Camp gives high school students an opportunity to explore health career options. Parents also are welcome to attend the free, day-long event. An estimated 14 Scrubs Camps are held around the state of South Dakota each year.



**Above:** An SDSU pharmacy student,(R), illustrates blood pressure checks to Scrubs Camp attendees. **Below:** A Sanford School of Medicine USD medical student, (R), illustrates the process of intubation, or opening an airway for breathing.



## REHPS to place 18 students in SD communities in summer of 2013

Applications for the Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students (REHPS) Summer Experience Program are available January 1, 2013. Students from the physician, physician assistant, pharmacy, and advanced nursing practice programs are encouraged to apply.

Applications will be accepted until February 15, 2013. Students selected will be notified by the middle of March 2013.

A total of 18 students will be placed in nine communities in 2013. Learn more about the REHPS Summer Experience Program at its website: [www.rehps.org](http://www.rehps.org). For more information call Kassy Youmans, REHPS Program Manager at (605)655-1407 or email: [kassy.youmans@yrahec.org](mailto:kassy.youmans@yrahec.org).

## Disaster Training Day set Feb. 1

Health professions students from 11 programs will be taught basic disaster response and teamwork skills during Disaster Training Day on Friday, Feb. 1, 2013.

These USD and SDSU students will move through various sessions on Core Disaster Life Support (CDLS), immunizations, triage, psych first aid, anaphylaxis, and points of dispensing (PODs). The training

will help prepare the students should they be called upon in the event of a disaster.



2012 Disaster Training Day



## Visual aids boost understanding



Ear models, station activities, a sound meter, and a roll-up piano keyboard are all designed to provide students with hands-on learning opportunities illustrating how hearing occurs. A nominal shipping fee sends the materials to your classroom; other delivery options may be arranged.

## Hands-on learning compliments healthcare career exploration

Pulse oximetry is a way of measuring the oxygen saturation in the arteries. Determination can identify low blood oxygen, or hypoxemia, which can be caused by a number of medical problems needing prompt medical intervention.

The Yankton Rural AHEC is incorporating pulse oximeters into its healthcare career exploration presentations to students. Students will learn how the oximeter works, and what the data tells healthcare providers.

Contact the YRAHEC at 605-655-1400 to schedule a presentation from K-12 Education Manager, Bart Hallberg.

*Learn more about pulse oximetry at [www.livestrong.com](http://www.livestrong.com)*



## Five "In-A-Box" learning modules to bring to your classroom

Teachers who work with grades 4-8 can explore aspects of scientific careers, the body, and the environment through five self-contained "In-A-Box" learning modules available from the Yankton Rural AHEC.

These exploration in science and health kits contain a variety of activities to fuel student interest.

"... the kids really liked the hands-on equipment. They really looked forward to coming to class to see what new things came from the box. The ear model is super to explain the anatomy. I feel they understand it far better by seeing what the lecture was describing," commented one South Dakota teacher.

Each box contains various learning materials such as models, DVDs, books, tools, station activities, along with teacher and ambassador handbooks including links to other sources to expand the exploration. Topics include: bones and muscles, the ear, guts, the eye and brain.

The "Guts-In-A-Box" introduces students to the complex process of turning the food we eat into energy. Tools focus on the intestines, stomach, liver, pancreas, appendix, and gallbladder. Fat, burps, and enzymes are all part of the discussion. *See page 1 for a photo.*



The In-A-Box modules contain a variety of resources including links to other sources to expand the lessons for your students. The material is geared toward grades 4-8.

**Call YRAHEC at 605-655-1400 to set up delivery of an In-A-Box to your classroom.**



*Upcoming Events -- Save the Date*

**Happy Holidays from Yankton Rural AHEC!**

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Jan. 17</b>    | 8th Grade Career Fair, Wagner   |
| <b>Jan. 23-25</b> | SDAESP/SDASSP Conference, Oacoma  |
| <b>Feb. 1</b>     | Disaster Preparedness Training Day, Vermillion                                  |
| <b>Feb. 8</b>     | SD Academy of Family Physicians Conference - REHPS Preceptor Training, Deadwood |
| <b>Feb. 14</b>    | Regional Career Fair, Menno<br>Chronic Kidney Update, Yankton                   |
| <b>Feb. 27</b>    | 3rd Annual Rosebud Healthcare Careers Day, Rosebud                              |



**SAVE THE DATE**

**What: Rural Precepting and Simple Procedures 101**

**When: Friday, February 8, 2013**

**Where: The Lodge, Deadwood**

**Who: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Pharmacists, Nurse Practitioners**

The continuing education is held in conjunction with the SD Academy of Family Physicians Conference. Attendees of the Precepting Session can earn up to 2 CMEs. Dr. Richard Honke and Diane Weber, PA-C, are lead presenters.

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