

# Connections

Connecting students to careers,  
Professionals to communities,  
Communities to better health.

2015 Summer Report

Volume 5 Number 1

## Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students

***"I spent my day on call with Karen, a nurse practitioner at the clinic.*** We were responsible for any patients that came into the emergency department. I really enjoyed my past emergency medicine clinical rotation, so I was excited for this experience. We had two ER visits. I have a lot of respect for the medical staff that works so independently in a rural environment. The ER does not have specialists readily available unlike more urban areas. The staff explained to me how they use telemedicine in the ER. They are able to call an ER physician and speak to him on television if they have a case that is in need of extra assistance and specialization. ***What a valuable resource for rural emergency departments!"***

**Raychel Lorenz**  
Physician Assistant/USD  
REHPS Student in Miller

### Connections

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## Yankton Rural AHEC to contribute to national HPV training effort

The National AHEC Organization National Training Center is embarking on the Improving HPV Immunization Rates on a National Scale Utilizing the National AHEC Network project. The project will work in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve HPV immunization rates of 11 and 12 year old, males and females, throughout the nation by improving clinician training and understanding of the vaccine.

To complete this project, 10 regional HPV project coordinators were hired to work closely with selected AHEC entities in each state within their region to establish and maintain links with appropriate resources. Corryn Celmer, Program Specialist with Yankton Rural AHEC, is the Region H Coordinator. States in Region H are: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South



From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:  
HPV Vaccine Resources for Healthcare Professionals  
at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted virus in the United States. Almost every sexually active person will acquire HPV at some point in their lives.

HPV is a group of more than 150 related viruses. Each HPV virus in this large group is given a number which is called its HPV type. HPV is named for the warts (papillomas) some HPV types can cause. Some other HPV types can lead to cancer, especially cervical cancer. There are more than 40 HPV types that can infect the genital areas of males and females. But there are vaccines that can prevent infection with the most common types of HPV.



Corryn Celmer  
YRAHEC  
Program Specialist

## REHPS: Fifth year, 30 students - 15 communities

- The Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students (REHPS) program will bring 30 students to 15 South Dakota communities this summer. Students gain valuable interprofessional experiences in a rural healthcare setting. See the students on page 3.



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 students win video contest

(Left to Right) McKenna Golden, Erin Luken, Sydney Ingalls, and Anatomy/Physiology Instructor Dr. Angela Hejl take a break from rat dissection at Yankton High School. The three students along with Becky Frick (not pictured) placed first in the 2015 Healthcare Video Contest earning the team \$500 and their school \$500. See the winning videos at [www.yrahec.org](http://www.yrahec.org).

Three teams of South Dakota high school students shared cash prizes of \$2,000 with their schools by telling the story of the state's healthcare workforce shortage through a 30-second video. Their videos are posted online in an effort to educate their peers about the state's workforce needs and the possibilities available with healthcare careers.

The contest was sponsored by the SD Association of Health Care Organizations, the SD Healthcare Workforce Center, Midcontinent Communications and Yankton Rural AHEC. The contest aims to bring a greater awareness to high school students, their peers and others about the demand for healthcare workers in the state.

A Yankton High School team took top prize with their video entitled "Healthcare for the Future." Team members are: Becky Frick, Sydney Ingalls, Erin Luken and McKenna Golden. The students put their video together as part of their Anatomy/Physiology class instructed by Dr. Angela Hejl. Both the Yankton High School and the team took home a \$500 prize for a total \$1,000 package.

The winning video aired on Midcontinent Communications cable in April. This video along with the runner-ups are posted online at [www.yrahec.org](http://www.yrahec.org).

Two entries took runner-up prize of \$500 each to be split with their schools. Jordan Fostvedt, a junior at Vermillion High School, took runner-up with her video: "A Better World" which she completed in Brandy Wallin's Anatomy/Physiology class. Also taking runner-up honors were: Savannah Johnson, Emma Smith and Megan Wattenhofer of Rapid City. Their video "Health Care Commercial" was a project of Rapids Speech and Debate Club instructed by David Johnson.

## Scrubs Camps Recap

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education began the Scrubs Camp Program during the school year of 2007-2008. In seven years, the effort has more than doubled. Starting out with 5 camps and 500 students participating, in 2014-2015, 19 camps were held and more than 1,200 students took part.

Communities hosting camps during the past school year were: Aberdeen, Chamberlain, Faith, Gregory, Huron, Madison, Mission, Mitchell (2), Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City (2), Sioux Falls (2), Spearfish, Vermillion, and Yankton.

Yankton Rural AHEC manages the Scrubs Camp program for the South Dakota Department of Health's Office of Rural Health.

**Here are a few of the comments from Scrubs Camp participants:**

**What was your favorite part of Scrubs Camp? Why was it your favorite part?**

"I enjoyed learning about the health careers in depth. I learned what I liked and what I didn't like about the occupations."

---- Yankton Scrubs Camp Attendee

"Probably the nursing part. It was my favorite part because I want to be a nurse and it showed me a lot about it."

---- Gregory Scrubs Camp Attendee

"Learning from the occupational therapist, it made me think of going into that career."

---- Mission Scrubs Camp Attendee

"Public Health. Because I'm interested in this area after I heard what she said about it."

---- Vermillion Scrubs Camp Attendee

"CNP and EMT portions because the people were very interactive and fun. They were truthful about everything that happens during their job - good and bad."

---- Madison Scrubs Camp Attendee



# REHPS Class of 2015



## Fifteen communities welcome 30 students

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

YANKTON, S.D. -- Fifteen South Dakota communities are welcoming 30 health professions students for a four-week rural healthcare experience this summer. Now in its fifth year, the Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students (REHPS) program is designed to bring health professions graduates to rural South Dakota for rewarding careers.

The 15 communities selected for this year's experience are: Bowdle, Canton, Chamberlain, Custer, Hot Springs, Miller, Parkston, Philip, Platte, Redfield, Sisseton, Sturgis, Wagner, Webster, and Winner. The REHPS program connects interprofessional groups of students enrolled in clinical psychology, family nurse practitioner, medical, medical laboratory science, physician assistant, pharmacy, and social work programs at South Dakota State University and the University of South Dakota. Each community hosts two students from different areas of healthcare. Students are inspired by the experience, due in large part to the host communities, and their professionals' mentoring skills.

"I feel so blessed that I was placed in such a great community and had the opportunity to meet such wonderful people, all while expanding and using my knowledge I've learned in the classroom. I know for a fact that this experience has forever changed my life and has had a positive impact on my education and future," stated Molly Sloom, PharmD, about her 2014 experience in Bowdle.

Facilities in REHPS communities are interested in the education of health professions students and understand the importance of giving students a first-hand look at how rewarding rural medicine can be. Community residents welcome the students with enthusiasm rounding off a meaningful experience that promotes a return to rural healthcare as a career.

REHPS receives funding from the Office of Rural Health/South Dakota Department of Health and is managed by the Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center. Follow the student's experiences at [www.rehps.org](http://www.rehps.org).

### Bowdle



Mackenzie Klinkhammer  
Pharmacy  
SDSU  
Bowdle



Marissa Meyer  
Physician Assistant  
USD  
Bowdle

### Canton



Chet McManus  
Physician Assistant  
USD  
Canton



Brianne Weber  
Medical Lab Science  
SDSU  
Canton

### Chamberlain



Sara Bunkers  
Clinical Psychology  
USD  
Chamberlain



Tamara Giese  
Pharmacy  
SDSU  
Chamberlain

### Custer



Austin Huber  
Medicine  
SSOM/USD  
Custer



Joshua Ohrtman  
Pharmacy  
SDSU  
Custer

### Hot Springs



Alex Ogren  
Pharmacy  
SDSU  
Hot Springs



Bryant Wiekling  
Physician Assistant  
USD  
Hot Springs

### Miller



Raychel Lorenz  
Physician Assistant  
USD  
Miller



Lea Telkamp  
Pharmacy  
SDSU  
Miller

Watch for blogs this summer  
at: [www.rehps.org](http://www.rehps.org)

Continued on Page 4





Watch for blogs this summer at: [www.rehps.org](http://www.rehps.org)

# cont'd from page 3: *REHPS Class of 2015*

## *Parkston*



Lisa Baer  
Clinical Psychology  
USD  
Parkston



Emma Bye  
Medicine  
SSOM/USD  
Parkston

## *Philip*



Kelly McKnight  
Medicine  
SSOM/USD  
Philip



Kerri Larson  
Pharmacy  
SDSU  
Philip

## *Platte*



Alissa Neigel  
Medical Lab Science  
SDSU  
Platte



Jessica Sundleaf  
Alumni Scholar/Medicine  
SSOM/USD  
Platte

## *Redfield*



Kaylie Gabur  
Pharmacy  
SDSU  
Redfield



Amber Evenson  
Physician Assistant  
USD  
Redfield

## *Sisseton*



Kelli Hirsch  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
SDSU  
Sisseton



Dana Martens  
Master of Social Work  
USD  
Sisseton

## *Sturgis*



Nolan Hunt  
Master of Social Work  
USD  
Sturgis



Sara Menning  
Pharmacy  
SDSU  
Sturgis

## *Wagner*



Stephen Bollinger  
Medicine  
SSOM/USD  
Wagner



Max Pierson  
Pharmacy  
SDSU  
Wagner

## *Webster*



Danielle Bruscher  
Pharmacy  
SDSU  
Webster



Susan Wik  
Alumni Scholar/Medicine  
SSOM/USD  
Webster

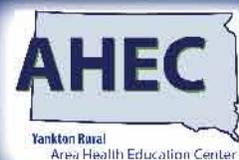
## *Winner*



Brady Coburn  
Medicine  
SSOM/USD  
Winner



Levi Hattervig  
Pharmacy  
SDSU  
Winner



## Improving Combat Veterans Care conference draws 59 attendees at Aberdeen and Yankton

Healthcare professionals learned more about meeting the needs of combat veterans and their families during two conferences in Aberdeen and Yankton in April.

The day-long conference was geared toward psychologists, counselors - school, drug and alcohol, marriage and family therapists, social workers, clergy, and health professions students along with other professionals. Two featured speakers along with others brought extensive knowledge to the events which included topics such as support programs, community partners, and improving services to veterans and their families in rural America.

Featured speakers included: Bob Goodale, former Harris Teeter

CEO, who is the Director of the Citizen Soldier Support Program (CSSP), administered through the Odum Institute for Research and Social Science at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and Dennis Mohatt, who is the Vice President for Behavioral Health for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

CSSP is a capacity-building initiative designed to strengthen community support for Service Members and their families especially for those in rural, frontier and underserved areas. To learn more visit: [www.citizensolidersupport.org](http://www.citizensolidersupport.org).

Mohatt serves as the Director of the Mental Health Program and the WICHE Center for Rural Behavioral Health Research. Founded in 1955, the WICHE Mental Health Program is a collaborative interstate venture with 15 western states. The program assists the states in the improvement of systems of care for persons with mental illness and their families and advances the preparation of a qualified mental health workforce.

Sponsors of this event were: the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, Northeast South Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC), Northern Nebraska AHEC and Yankton Rural AHEC.



**Yankton Speaker: Chaplain (COL) David Gunderson of the SDNG**

## 265 students sign up for SERV-SD at DTD

More than 300 healthcare students met in Vermillion March 20th, to ready themselves to assist others in a potential, future disaster.

Disaster Training Day (DTD), held on the University of South Dakota (USD) campus, prepares future healthcare professionals to assist their communities should a disaster strike. In the past four years, 1,710 students have participated with 897 becoming certified in Core Disaster Life Support (CDLS) from the National Disaster Life Support Foundation (NDLSF).

More than 80% of the students attending DTD, or 265 students registered with the Department of Health's Statewide Emergency Registry of Volunteers in South Dakota (SERV SD). This registry coordinates the pre-registration of medical and healthcare professionals who are willing to volunteer during disaster situations.

Disciplines participating included pharmacy and medical laboratory science from South Dakota State University along with the following students from USD: dental hygiene, masters in social work, clinical lab science, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant, physician and clinical psychology.

The Office of Public Health Preparedness & Response of the SD Department of Health, the USD Sanford School of Medicine, USD School of Health Sciences, SDSU, the Regional Training Center for Upper Midwest and the Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center (YRAHEC) coordinated the event. The day was funded by the SD DOH through a federal Health and Human Services grant.



## Outstanding Mentor - Sandy Viau-Williams

At the University of South Dakota Department of Health Sciences Spring 2015 Advisory Board Meeting, June Larson, Associate Dean, recognized Sandy Viau-Williams, Executive Director of the Yankton Rural AHEC, for her contribution in mentoring a recent alum - Corryn Celmer. Celmer, Program Specialist at Yankton Rural AHEC, was recently named a regional coordinator for a five-year project through the National AHEC Organization in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control. (See page 1 of this newsletter for more information.)

## Upcoming Events -- Save the Date

- June 23, 2015** Rural Rewards at Mitchell Dept. of Labor
- July 13, 2015** Mitchell CNA Institute begins
- July 20, 2015** Rural Rewards Quarterly Meeting at Wagner
- Aug. 7, 2015** REHPS 2015 wraps up
- Sept. 17, 2015** Scrubs Camp, Rapid City
- Sept. 30, 2015** Scrubs Camp, Pierre
- Oct. 6, 2015** Scrubs Camp, Yankton
- Oct. 7, 2015** Scrubs Camp, Mission
- Oct. 12, 2015** Scrubs Camp, Aberdeen
- Oct. 14, 2015** Scrubs Camp, Mobridge & Hot Springs



Daniel Prendable of the Yankton County EMS along with several other healthcare professionals participated in the Yankton Middle School Health Fair on May 6, coordinated by Yankton Rural AHEC at the request of Yankton Middle School.

To receive this newsletter electronically: email [info@yrahec.org](mailto:info@yrahec.org) with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.