

**Appalachian Regional Healthcare System
(Blowing Rock Rehabilitation & Davant Extended Care Center, Charles A. Cannon, Jr. Memorial Hospital and Watauga Medical Center)
Summary of Partnership
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**

HEALTH CAREERS and WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

Grades 9-12—

- **Camp Med Avery County** - Partnership: Avery County Schools, Appalachian Regional Healthcare System (Blowing Rock Rehabilitation & Davant Extended Care Center, Cannon Memorial Hospital, and Watauga Medical Center) Lees McRae, Appalachian State and Northwest AHEC. Coordinated and hosted by Avery County Schools where **10** students participated from **Avery** County. Northwest AHEC provides \$1,500 in support for each program and makes this offer each fall for the upcoming summer.
- **Camp Med Watauga County** -- Partnership: Watauga County Schools, Appalachian Regional Healthcare System, (Blowing Rock Rehabilitation & Davant Extended Care Center, Charles A. Cannon, Jr. Memorial Hospital and Watauga Medical Center) Caldwell County Community College, Appalachian State University and Northwest AHEC. Coordinated and hosted by Watauga County Schools where **11** students participated. Northwest AHEC provides \$1,500 in support for each program and makes this offer each fall for the upcoming summer.
- **Northwest AHEC Scholars Program** – College students are recruited from Wake Forest and Winston-Salem State Universities to participate in a 3-year program. The first two years consist of didactic and clinical components to enhance their opportunities after matriculation for health professions’ graduate school or employment. The third year will be an opportunity for students to fully participate in an evaluative forum to provide feedback about the first two years and thereby, help to improve program quality for current/future students.
- Information about Northwest AHEC programs can be found by going to our website: <http://nwahec.org/site> or by contacting Ms. Melanee Mills at (336) 713-7714 or mqmills@WakeHealth.edu.

STUDENT AND PRECEPTOR SUPPORT

Medical/Physician Assistant Students

- Many **medical** and **physician assistant students** rotate with local precepting physicians and accompany them to see patients where the physicians have practicing privileges.
- Overnight student accommodations are available if needed for all students.
- The Northwest AHEC Student and Preceptor Support provide administrative and financial support for these preceptors and students with their rotations in community settings.
- Some communities use these student rotation opportunities to develop relationships with the students for potential future placement upon degree completion. Physicians interested in becoming preceptors should contact Ms. Angela Hodges at (336) 713-7717 or ahodges@WakeHealth.edu

Health Sciences Student Rotations in Avery and Watauga Counties

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
# Students in rotation	33	28	16	13
# Students weeks	101	82	24	36

Student week: can be 1 student for 1 week; 4 student weeks can be 1 student for 4 weeks or 4 students for 1 week each, etc.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

- Northwest AHEC CPD activities are marketed to healthcare professionals of **Appalachian Regional Healthcare System**.
- More information about CPD activities can be found on our website: <http://nwahec.org/site> or by contacting Ms. Marie Simos at (336) 713-7721 or msimos@WakeHealth.edu

Appalachian Regional Healthcare System Healthcare Professionals' CPD Activity

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
# Unique registrants	87	40	47	68
# Registrations	128	94	64	190

- Listed below is a summary of CME activities, accredited by the Office of Continuing Medical Education of Wake Forest School of Medicine, conducted at Watauga Medical Center.

Type	Number of Activities	Number of Participants
Medical Society	5	107

Nursing Management Institute

- Nursing Management Institute (NMI) - an online management curriculum for new or aspiring nurse managers
- Created and offered by the Northwest AHEC in partnership with Greensboro AHEC
- Total program enrollment for **FY18** was **7** for the 12 modules.
- FY18 is the last year for the NMI program, as it was phased out 12/13/17. There are now very similar programs available elsewhere which interested participants can easily access.

Community Health Partnerships

- Northwest AHEC's Community Health Partnerships program was initiated to enhance the work of health coalitions in our region and to link them with the resources of the NC AHEC system. Since 2000, we have co-sponsored, with the Regional NC DHHS Healthy Carolinians/Health Education Consultant, meetings of the Coalition Coordinators' Network (CCN), a networking and education venue for those involved with coalition work. Although state funding was eliminated for the county's Healthy Carolinians' consultant positions, many local counties used local or grant funds to continue; therefore, Northwest AHEC continued our support of the Northwest AHEC Coalition Coordinators' Network.
- This year we held an educational program on community responses to the opioid epidemic and plan to offer a program on diversity, bias, privilege and the social determinants of health. We also continued to utilize a listserv which was established for the CCN to facilitate networking and idea sharing.
- For more information about this service, go to our website: <http://nwahec.org/site> or contact Ms. Ellen Kesler at (336) 713-7712 or ekesler@WakeHealth.edu

UNC Chapel Hill RN Refresher Program

- Northwest AHEC offers the RN Refresher Program to nurses who want to reinstate their licenses or want to update their skills.
- Curriculum consists of a didactic component and a clinical practicum.
- Students engage in their clinical practicum at a variety of hospitals in the Northwest AHEC region.
- Most institutions providing clinical rotations for these students use the opportunity to recruit them for employment upon program completion and having earned their RN credentials. A viable contract is in operation with ARHS' Watauga Medical Center in Watauga County, but not in Avery County.
- There were **no** clinical placements at Watauga Medical Center during **FY18**
- Interested health care organizations should contact Ms. Kay Herr at (336) 713-7720 or kherr@WakeHealth.edu

UNC Chapel Hill RN Refresher Clinical Practicum Placements in Watauga County

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
# RN Refresher students	3	2	2	0

PRACTICE SUPPORT SERVICES

- In FY17, Northwest AHEC Practice Support Services coached practices in a variety of quality improvement programs including, but not limited to, AHRQ Heart Health Now, Meaningful Use Stage 2, and NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home transformation. The NWAHEC Practice Support Team coached a total of **96** practices throughout our seventeen-county region. **Two** of these practices were in Avery county and 11 in Watauga County.

Health Professionals Assisted by Northwest AHEC Practice Support in Avery County
Clark Family Medicine
Mountain Laurel Internal Medicine, PA

Health Professionals Assisted by Northwest AHEC Practice Support in Watauga County	
Appalachian Family Practice PA	High Country Community Health
Appalachian Regional Medical Associates	Marshall C. Murrey, MD
Blue Ridge Nephrology & Hypertension Center	Mountain Laurel Family Practice
Blue Ridge Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine, Inc	Primedical Healthcare, PA
Boone Dermatology Clinic, PA	
Compassionate Care	
David M Cline, MD	

- For more information about how Northwest AHEC's Regional Extension Center can help you, contact Dr. Chris Jones at (336) 713-7039 or cjones@WakeHealth.edu or please go to <https://www.ncahec.net/practice-support/>

LIBRARY SERVICES

- Appalachian Regional Healthcare System is a member of NW AHEC Library Services.

	7/1/14-6/30/15	7/1/15-6/30/16	7/1/16-6/30/17	7/1/17-6/30/18
Document Delivery Request ¹	851	569	1046	725
ADL ² Registered Users	106	227	154	213
ADL Users who logged into the ADL	67	65	35	36
Total Number of ADL logins	725	718	492	446
Number of Site Visits ³	27	21	21	32
Number of Search Requests	79	31	97	58
Number of Consults ⁴	1274	840	1529	1192

1--Materials checked out from library collection; items from library collection which have been used and re-shelved; photocopies made by library staff from library collection; and documents borrowed from a library outside of the Northwest AHEC Library system.

2 -- AHEC Digital Library

3 -- Site visits are meetings with Northwest AHEC institutional members for education, administration, promotion or consult purposes which are located away from WFSM, Catawba Valley Medical Center, and Watauga Medical Center.

4 -- Consults include telephone, email or in person; include number of consultations to preceptor sites; categories of assistance can range from various types of technology assists to accreditation preparation, collection development, and training library contacts.

OR = orientation

EC = educational class

FY18 Search Request Details

- Total of **58** requests with the following topics/categories:

Search Topic	Search Type
epidural anesth postop pts in Crit Care	Patient Care
pt ed c dif/low literacy pt ed	Patient Care
gabapentin ETOH withdrawal	Patient Care
ortho surg pts and los factors	Patient Care

increased patient mobility/nursing staff	Research
Low back pain/imaging, rehabilitation	Patient Care
impact/affect of epidural anesthesia on breastfeeding	Patient Care
Temporal thermometer accuracy	Research
Risk associated with patient transfers during shift change	Research
Adding NPs/PAs to Hosp Med practice/risk of being sued	Research
Oral chemo standards	Research
front office staff to provider ratios in a PT clinic	Research
Post-polio syndrome + rehabilitation	Patient Care
Post-polio syndrome + ambulation	Patient Care
Post-polio syndrome + Standing frame	Patient Care
low protein diets and longevity, good health, chronic diseases	Research
Evidence based practice on the efficacy of pre-surgical joint classes	Research
Role and use of navigator for orthopedic patients, inpt and outpt.	Research
health coaching group appointments	Research
staff/office staff ratio	Patient Care
protein intake and cancer	Research
low protein diet and longevity	Research
low protein diet and general health and safety	Research
protein and chronic diseases/conditions	Patient Care
protein and heart disease	Research
protein and diabetes	Patient Care
protein and neurodegenerative diseases	Research
vegan diet and protein and health effects	Research
group appointments	Patient Care
standard of care for the use of ultrasound guidance in elective pacemaker placement	Research
Evidence based practice on the efficacy of pre-surgical joint classes	Research
Role and use of navigator for orthopedic patients, inpt and outpt.	Research
scheduling and unpunctuality or tardiness of patients	Research
Heterotrophic Ossification and supplements	Patient Care
Dermatomyositis	Patient Care
Tethered Cord Syndrome Physical Rehabilitation	Patient Care
Spinal Degenerative Joint Disease	Patient Care
ED depression screening and ED suicide screening	Research
Vitamin C and Sepsis treatment	Research
best practice for telehealth	Research

heterotrophic ossification and calcium and/or collagen supplements	Patient Care
best practice of implantation (implementation) of an outpatient EHR	Research
Superior canal dehiscence - Early identification / Diagnosis	Patient Care
transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation for pain control and types of appropriate diagnoses	Research
Parkinson's disease and boxing	Research
Yoga and rehabilitation and fitness in Parkinson's disease	Patient Care
Relaxation and mindfulness for Parkinson's disease	Research
Parkinson's disease and cycling	Patient Care
Tai Chi for rehabilitation and fitness in Parkinson's disease	Research
Dance and movement for Parkinson's disease	Research
Division I universities whose athletic programs have a Physical Therapist vs. ATC (athletic trainer) vs. both and outcomes of their athletes	Research
"tethered cord syndrome" Syringomyelia and PT or Syringomyelia and gait disorders	Patient Care
standard of care for the use of ultrasound guidance in elective pacemaker placement	Research
Gabapentin and Sleep	Research
oral care inpatients standards/protocols	Patient Care
Initial Visit of a new Physician	Research

- Information about these services can be found at the Northwest AHEC website: <http://nwahec.org/site> or by contacting Ms. Karen Martinez at (828) 326-3482 or martinez@WakeHealth.edu.