

**Toe River District Health Department**  
(Reporting activities for Avery County only)  
**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.
- **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 [mgmills@WakeHealth.edu](mailto:mgmills@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 provides 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](mailto:ahodges@WakeHealth.edu)

**Health Science Student Rotations in Avery County**

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
# Students in rotation	11	8	3	0
# Students weeks	39	33	6	0

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 **Toe River District Health Department in Avery County**.
- More information about CPD activities can be found on our website: [northwestahec.org](http://northwestahec.org) or by contacting Ms. Marie Simos at (336) 713-7721 or [msimos@WakeHealth.edu](mailto:msimos@WakeHealth.edu)

**Toe River District Health Department Healthcare Professionals’ CPD Activity**

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
# Unique registrants	8	21	14	8
# Registrations	32	43	26	11

## 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](mailto:ekesler@WakeHealth.edu)

## UNC Chapel Hill RN Refresher Program

- Northwest AHEC offers the UNC Chapel Hill 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.
- There are **no** contracts in place in **Avery** County; therefore, there were **no** students enrolled in the RN Refresher clinical practicum during **FY18**.
- Interested health care organizations should contact Ms. Kay Herr at (336) 713-7720 or [kherr@WakeHealth.edu](mailto:kherr@WakeHealth.edu)

## PRACTICE SUPPORT SERVICES

In FY18, 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.

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

- 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](mailto:cjones@WakeHealth.edu) or please go to <https://www.ncahec.net/practice-support/>

## LIBRARY SERVICES

- Appalachian Regional Healthcare System (ARHS) is comprised of Cannon Memorial Hospital, Blowing Rock Rehabilitation & Davant Extended Care and Watauga Medical Center. ARHS is a member of the Northwest AHEC Library Services.
- 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](mailto:martinez@WakeHealth.edu).