

Alabama
AHEC

STATEWIDE PROGRAM

2024 AHEC PRIMARY CARE SUMMIT

Developing Healthcare Workforce



2024 AHEC Primary Care Summit

The 2024 AHEC Primary Care Summit held on January 25th was a resounding success, with 80 healthcare professionals coming together for a day of collaboration and discussion around healthcare workforce development issues. The event was sponsored by [Kolbe Clinic](#) and [Alabama HOSA](#).

The summit featured three panels discussing “Recruiting, Training and Retaining a Healthcare Workforce.” Between panels, attendees engaged in table discussions to brainstorm ways to enhance primary care based on the topics covered. Highlighted throughout the gathering were programs from various corners of the state, offering a valuable opportunity for all participants to glean insights and knowledge from one another.

The first panel, including moderator Michael Crouch, PharmD, MBA, FASHP; Christy Knowles; Joyce Jeter MSN, RN, NEA-BC; and Farrell Turner, CPA, CPC, FHFMA; discussed trends and impacts in healthcare. As Alabama becomes more and more rural, we face the threat of a continued primary care shortage unless we actively work towards increasing access to quality care.

Alabama Rural Health Association President and CEO Farrell Turner indicated that 35 hospitals in rural areas are at risk - below operating costs.

The second panel, led by moderator Lamont Dupree; Rebecca Cornelius, RN, MSN; Jeremiah Newell, Ed.LD; David Bramm, MD; and Bryant Cline, MS, BS, focused on the healthcare workforce pipeline.



Through numerous table discussions, a resounding consensus emerged: initiating efforts to promote healthcare fields in students' education from an earlier stage is paramount. It is imperative that we devise strategies to engage students as early as elementary school, with a particular focus on middle school, to bolster and expand our healthcare workforce.

The final panel, with moderator David Hooks; Raquel Mazer, DMD, MS, MPH; David Hicks, DO, MPH, FAAFP; and Brandi Merrill; explored healthcare as an industry.



In discussions regarding recruitment and retention, there was a strong emphasis on the necessity for improved compensation packages and comprehensive benefits. These include but are not limited to cost-of-living adjustments, generous leave allowances, and robust health insurance coverage.

Hicks underscored the importance of incentivizing careers in these fields, stating, "It's crucial that we provide tangible incentives for individuals to pursue careers in healthcare. How can we go to our young people and say you should consider a career in this or that if they don't see that they're going to get fairly compensated?"

The summit concluded with a retirement recognition ceremony for Joe Crozier of [North Alabama AHEC](#) and Mike Faircloth, MD of Alabama Statewide AHEC, with gratitude expressed by Bill Curry, MD and Cindy Selleck, PhD, RN, FNP, FAAN, for their remarkable contributions.

The [UAB Department Of Family and Community Medicine](#) provided support and media coverage for the event. Overall, the summit demonstrated a strong dedication to advancing primary care in Alabama.



[View Event Presentations under resource tab](#)

Paulisha Holt as the Program Director for Finance and Evaluation of the Alabama Statewide AHEC Program Office



The Alabama Statewide AHEC Program Office is excited to welcome Paulisha Holt, MBA, as the new Program Director for Finance and Evaluation. With a master's degree from Virginia College of Birmingham and an undergraduate degree from Stillman College, Ms. Holt brings over 20 years of experience from UAB, previously holding roles in the [School of Public Health](#) as Program Director for the [Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) and Program Manager for the [Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety](#).

When she's not leading AHEC programs, Paulisha Holt loves to bake. Her weekends are often filled with the aroma of freshly baked cakes and cookies, which she finds helps her think and process. So, if you happen to spot some delicious cookies in her office, they're likely the result of some serious brainstorming sessions.

The Alabama Statewide AHEC Program Office is thrilled to welcome Paulisha Holt to the team. With her wealth of experience and expertise, Ms. Holt is poised to make significant contributions to the organization's mission of promoting healthcare equity and education across Alabama.

Dr. Kala Dixon joins as the Alabama Statewide AHEC Scholars Program Director



The Alabama Statewide AHEC Program Office is excited to welcome [Dr. Kala Dixon, Ph.D.](#), on board as the new Statewide AHEC Scholars Program Director. Currently Director of [Interprofessional and Continuing Education at UAB Department of Family and Community Medicine](#), her expertise in fostering collaboration aligns perfectly with the AHEC program's goals.

Kala and her husband's motto in life is "buy memories rather than stuff" and they live out their motto as true adventurers and wanderlust warriors. Kala has traveled to 48/50 states with her family and began her and her husband's

marital journey with a sunset Grand Canyon proposal and getting married with elephants and giraffes by their side to coincide with their “travel-themed wedding”. From experiencing the peace and serenity in the deserted out west, the neon glow of Las Vegas, and vibrant New Orleans culture, to the concrete jungle in the Big Apple, Kala’s love for travel is deep in her roots. If Kala is ever off from work you can bet she and her husband are embarking on new adventures as her tales are her most treasured mental souvenirs.

The Alabama Statewide AHEC Program Office is delighted to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Kala Dixon as she joins our team. Leveraging her wealth of experience and expertise, Dr. Dixon is poised to play a significant role in furthering our organization's mission of fostering healthcare equity and education across Alabama.

February AHEC Scholars Webinar Recap



Dr. Joel Dobbs, Senior Instructor at UAB Collat School of Business, led an insightful AHEC Scholars webinar on "Intro to the Pharmaceutical Industry and Health Disparities" on Friday, February 23, 2024. Attendees gained valuable insights into the pharmaceutical industry's role in addressing health disparities. Dr. Dobbs expertly navigated the complexities of this crucial intersection, empowering scholars to understand the industry's impact on healthcare equity.

Learning Opportunities

CU2RE Teams Retreat

When: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 1 pm - 5 pm
Where: Lecture Hall 302, UAB Volker Hall (1670 University Blvd.)

About This Event

Please join us for a collaborative experience hosted by the Department of Family and Community Medicine's CU²RE Program, within the UAB Heersink School of Medicine. In addition to meeting students from other health profession schools and hearing from renowned community partners, students will participate in an "interprofessional speed-dating activity," engaging in rapid consultations with interprofessional student teams.

AHEC Scholars are welcome!

Registration

CU²RE TEAMS RETREAT

Together Everyone Achieves More

Do you want to heighten your teamwork skills while earning volunteer hours to meet your program requirements?

Please join us for a collaborative experience hosted by the Department of Family and Community Medicine's CU²RE Program, within the UAB Heersink School of Medicine. In addition to meeting students from other health profession schools and hearing from renowned community partners, students will participate in an "interprofessional speed-dating activity," engaging in rapid consultations with interprofessional student teams. Through timed relationships, medical students will present intricate patient cases to their counterparts, seeking insights and recommendations tailored to meet their patient's complex needs. As students exchange expertise and perspectives, they will foster collaborative relationships, enhance their understanding of holistic patient care and cultivate invaluable skills in interprofessional teamwork, positioning them to navigate the complexities of healthcare delivery more effectively.

If you want to learn how to make a greater impact among the community populations you serve, please contact your program director and use the QR code, below, to complete the registration form.

RETREAT DETAILS:

Date: March 15, 2024
Time: 1 - 5 p.m.
Location: Lecture Hall 302, UAB Volker Hall (1670 University Blvd.)

AGENDA:

- 1:15 Opening remarks, welcome speaker
- 1:15-2:15 Keynote Address: Bob Lujano, M.S.
- 2:15-2:30 Ice breaker
- 2:30-4:00 Speed dating with personal case/10 pt panel
- 4:4-30 Reflection/debrief
- 4:30-5 Networking social (food provided)

INTERPROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES:

Medicine, Nutrition, Social Work, Physical Therapy and Pharmacy

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

UAB, Cahaba Medical Care, Sanford University and AHEC Scholars

About CU²RE: The Comprehensive Urban Underserved and Rural Experience program was established by the UAB Department of Family and Community Medicine after a \$7 million HRSA grant in 2010. The program includes medical student education and programming aimed towards recruiting, training and retaining the next generation of primary care physicians.



Alabama Rural Health Conference

When: Wednesday - Friday, March 6-8, 2024
Where: Embassy Suites in Montgomery & Virtual

About This Event

This year's conference will feature topics such as:

- Rural health policy and legislation
- Telehealth
- Best practices for hospitals and clinics
- Public health
- Rural health clinic administration
- Student poster session
- On-Demand Sessions

Come stop by the AHEC table!

Registration



NAO Advocacy Q & A

When: Thursday, March 14, 2024 2 pm CST
Where: Zoom



About This Event

National AHEC Week 2024 is almost here!

During the week (March 25 – 29), NAO will promote all things AHEC and emphasize the importance of connecting with legislators to make sure they are reminded of the great work AHECs are doing.

In preparation, the NAO Public Policy Committee along with our government relations partners, Health and Wellness Counsel of Washington, will host a virtual advocacy refresher!

Registration

March AHEC Scholars Webinar

Population Health Research - EDP Formula

When: Friday, March 29, 2024 12 pm - 1 pm
Where: Zoom

About This Event

Join Dr. Chip Tucker, [East Central Alabama AHEC](#) Scholars Coordinator, for a webinar on Population Health Research - EDP Formula. Discover how to use the EDP Formula to craft focused study questions, essential for impactful research in healthcare. Register now to gain valuable insights and enhance your skills in population health research.



Registration

Volunteer Opportunity

Sports Physicals for Birmingham City Schools

About This Event

The UAB Department of Family and Community Medicine is calling on volunteers to help with sports physicals for the Birmingham City Schools. They need physicians, students, nurses, ATs CMAs, staff and anyone who

can lend a hand. Lunch and beverages will be provided for those who sign up.

Dates and Locations (9 am to 3 pm)

Tuesday, April 2nd - Huffman High School

Thursday, April 4th - Bessemer City High School

Tuesday, April 9th - Wenonah High School

Tuesday, April 23rd - Ramsay High School

Wednesday, April 24th - Carver High School

Thursday, April 25th - Jackson-Olin High School

Any questions, email Calvin Spellman at cspellman@uabmc.edu

[Registration](#)

2024 MASA Annual Conference

When: Thursday - Saturday, April 11-13, 2024

Where: Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa Montgomery, AL

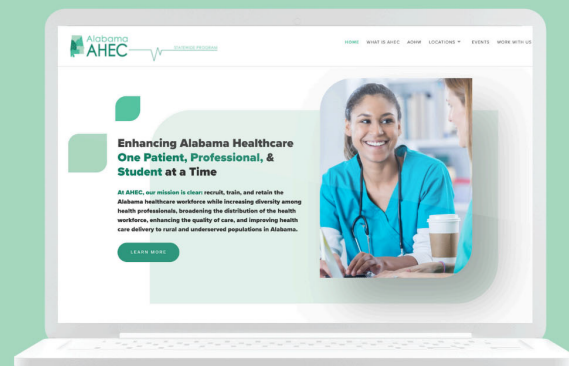
About This Event

The Medical Association of the State of Alabama's (MASA) Annual Session is an opportunity for anyone on their physician journey. Whether you're an experienced physician or just embarking on your medical training, the Annual Session offers a platform for obtaining Continuing Medical Education (CME), networking with peers, and engaging in the official affairs of the Association. This event highlights two distinguished lectures: the Jerome Cochran, MD, Lecture and the Ellann McCrory, MD Leadership Lecture.

[Registration](#)

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alahec.org



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About Alabama Statewide AHEC



The Alabama Statewide Area Health Education Center is dedicated to recruiting, training, and retaining the Alabama healthcare workforce while increasing diversity among health professionals, broadening the distribution of the health workforce, enhancing the quality of care, and improving health care delivery to rural and underserved populations in Alabama.

*The Alabama Statewide Area Health Education Center is funded in part by the **Health Resources and Services Administration**, the federal agency charged with training health professionals and improving health care for people who are geographically isolated, economically disadvantaged or medically vulnerable. The contents of this website are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.*