

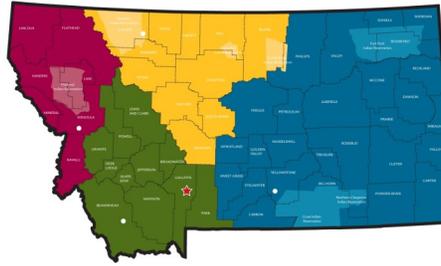
## Montana Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

The AHEC program was developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train, and retain a healthcare workforce committed to underserved populations.

In 1985, the Montana AHEC was implemented at Montana State University in Bozeman. In September, 2007, the MSU College of Nursing applied and was awarded a grant from the Health Resource Service Administration to establish 4 regional AHEC offices in Montana, in addition to the Bozeman Program Office.

In 2007, The South Central AHEC office was set up in Dillon, under the auspices of the Montana Hospital Association, and the Eastern AHEC office was set up in Billings, at Riverstone Health. The Western MT AHEC, at The University of Montana, in Missoula, was established in 2008, and the fourth and final office, North Central AHEC was established in Fairfield.

Each region has a program director, an advisory council, and works to develop healthcare workforce strategies for their own region.



-  Western MT AHEC, Missoula
-  North Central MT AHEC, Helena
-  Eastern MT AHEC, Billings
-  South Central MT AHEC, Helena
-  Montana AHEC, Bozeman

### Montana AHEC Pipeline Programs

- REACH
- In-A-Box curriculum trunks
  - MedStart Camp
  - HOSA

See “K-12” at  
[www.wmtahec.org](http://www.wmtahec.org)

#### For more information:

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A premier K-12  
Pipeline Program  
brought to you by  
Western Montana AHEC  
& your western Montana  
healthcare providers



Connecting students  
to careers,  
professionals to  
communities,  
and communities to  
better health



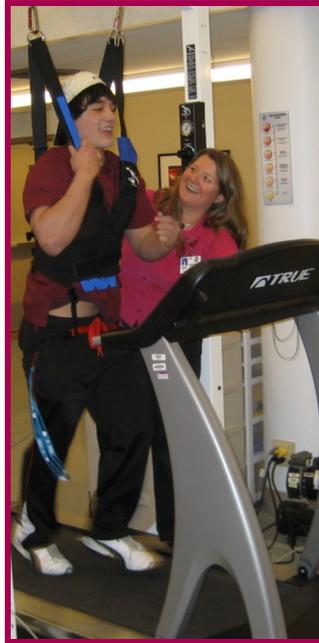
*The Montana AHEC mission is to improve the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals, with an emphasis on primary care, through community/academic educational partnerships, in order to increase the access to quality healthcare.*



*"I loved how they taught us about their job by being hands-on and getting us involved with what they do every day."*

*"Amazing job – I learned so much...that I talked to my teacher all the way home."*

Comments from students who attended Clark Fork Valley Hospital REACH May, 2012



## Research & Explore Awesome Careers in Healthcare

- + Provide Montana high school students a chance to learn about careers within the healthcare field by offering them an opportunity to explore and experience various healthcare careers.
- + Provide contact and interaction with professionals in the healthcare field.
- + Expose students to today's health issues
- + Explore and strengthen student's skills for health career development

The REACH program, developed by the South Central AHEC in 2009, is designed to provide Montana high school students a chance to learn about careers within the healthcare field by offering them an opportunity to explore and experience various healthcare occupations. The one-day event, which takes place at the local hospital or healthcare facility, allows students to rotate through a variety of stations – both clinical and non-clinical – with an emphasis on hands-on activities.



## WESTERN MONTANA AHEC REACH

During the 2014-'15 school year 385 students participated in 9 REACH programs in Western Montana