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South Central Kentucky AHEC

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## CONTINUING EDUCATION

Laura J. Nicholson  
Health Education Coordinator

The South Central AHEC has co-sponsored several recent workshops and conferences. In September AHEC participated in the Hospice Horizons workshop, Long Term Care Consumer Conference, and the first Geriatric Grand Rounds.

Hospice Horizons was held at the Medical Center on September 14th. The keynote speaker was Kathy Roche, RN, MA, from Baltimore, Maryland. Topics focused on the development of hospices and ethical issues in the allocation of health care resources.

"Who Speaks For The Nursing Home Resident?" was the topic of the Long Term Care Consumer Conference held on September 16th at Western Kentucky University. Keynote speaker was Susan Rourke from Detroit, Michigan, who is the President of the National Coalition for Nursing Home Reform. Attendees, many of whom were nursing home residents or family members, were given an opportunity to hear about Consumer Councils in other states, and to consider organizing an area wide Long Term Care Consumer Council locally. If formed, it will be the first such group in Kentucky.

The host site for AHEC's first



Dr. Kenneth Holtzapple speaking at the Geriatric Grand Rounds

Geriatric Grand Rounds was Homewood Healthcare in Glasgow. Speakers were Kenneth Holtzapple, M.D., and Richard D. Blondell, M.D. from the Department of Family Practice at University of Louisville. Dr. Holtzapple is chairman of the department, and Dr. Blondell is director of the residency program. Topics discussed were the relative roles and responsibilities of the physician and nursing home staff regarding decubiti and the use of restraints. A series of these programs is being planned for physicians, nurses, administrators, and other health professionals. Information will be available soon about the next Grand Rounds.

We are looking for other long term care facilities to host future Geriatric Grand Rounds. If you are interested, please call AHEC at (502) 745-3325.

"Successful Aging: Overcoming the Barriers to Nutrition and Health", is the topic of discussion for the

National TeleConference on November 1st at the Medical Center in Bowling Green. AHEC is co-sponsoring a workshop preceding the TeleConference, titled, "Teaching the Older Adult Dietary Compliance." Advance registration is required. A \$20 fee includes lunch and attendance at both sessions. Registration check-in begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by the workshop. The TeleConference will begin after lunch.

Application has been made for Continuing Education Credits for registered nurses, dieticians, dietetic technicians, nursing home administrators, certified home economists, physician assistants, pharmacists, and medical doctors.

For complete information contact AHEC at (502) 745-3325.

## PHYSICIANS HONORED

Dr. Gilbert Woodall  
Medical Director

The sixth district Kentucky Medical Association honored twenty six physicians who have served as Preceptors for medical students and residents completing rural rotations in the South Central AHEC area.

The meeting was held August 24th in Bowling Green. The preceptors were recognized for their wonderful contributions in recruitment and retention efforts. Certificates of appreciation from AHEC were presented.

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# THE AHEC

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# VISION

## DIRECTOR'S LETTER OF WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of **The AHEC VISION**, a quarterly newsletter published by the South Central Area Health Education Center. The purpose of this newsletter is to share significant accomplishments of the South Central AHEC and to provide a forum for upcoming events.

The Kentucky AHEC program is a collaborative effort of the University of Louisville Health Sciences Center, the University of Kentucky Medical Center and six regional centers designed to affect the distribution of health manpower throughout the Commonwealth. The South Central AHEC, located in Bowling Green, Kentucky, was established in October 1986 and serves a geographic region of 27 counties. Western Kentucky University, through its Department of Health and Safety, accepted the very important role of host institution in support of this AHEC. The South Central AHEC has the distinction of being the *only* AHEC hosted by a regional university as well as being the largest AHEC in terms of service area. These characteristics pose unique challenges and opportunities for the South Central AHEC. The goal of the South Central AHEC is to improve the recruitment and retention of health professionals in rural and under served areas. Programs designed to accomplish this goal include:

- clinical rotations for health professions students and residents
- continuing education programs
- library / learning resource networks
- health career awareness / promotion programs

The South Central AHEC is staffed with highly qualified health professionals serving in the capacity of Center Director and Coordinators of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Allied Health, Health Education, and Library Services as well as support staff.

Many different strategies have been utilized nationwide to address the recruitment and retention of health professionals but none have been as successful as the AHEC program. The South Central AHEC serves as a bridge between the universities and local communities. There is *no limit* to the accomplishments possible through this cooperative relationship.

## HEALTH CAREERS PROMOTION TASK FORCE

Rural areas have traditionally experienced difficulty in the recruitment and retention of health professionals. This problem has escalated recently as a result of manpower shortages in certain health care professions. Statistics indicate this trend will continue due to declining enrollments in many of the health care educational programs.

. . . See page 3 for the story of the Task Force created to work on this problem.

SOUTH CENTRAL AHEC  
415 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY HALL  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY  
BOWLING GREEN, KY. 42101

## ALLIED HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ken Whitley  
Allied Health Coordinator

The first meeting of the Allied Health Advisory Committee for the South Central Kentucky AHEC was Tuesday, September 26th at the Haycraft House in Elizabethtown. Guidelines were set for the newly created committee, followed by discussions of ways that the committee could assist AHEC in meeting its overall goals and objectives.

The following practitioners are serving as representatives of their disciplines:

### Cytotechnology

Mark Mathis, Hardin Memorial Hospital, Elizabethtown

### Dental Hygiene

Nancy Forshee, office of Dr. John Kelly, Franklin

### Health Care Administration

Bruce Hayes, Taylor County Hospital, Campbellsville

### Medical Technology

Yvonne Herman, Graves-Gilbert Clinic, Bowling Green

### Physical Therapy

Susan Glasgow, Lakeview Rehabilitation Hospital, Elizabethtown

### Physician Assistant

Kathy Seelig, Bowling Green

### Radiology Technology

Theresa Johnson, T.J. Samson Hospital, Glasgow

If your profession is not represented and you are interested in serving on the Allied Health Advisory Committee, please call Ken Whitley at (502) 745-3325.



Pictured, from left to right is Dr. Richard Swigart from University of Louisville, Kenneth Whitley from South Central AHEC, and Dr. Thomas Robinson from University of Kentucky.

## PRECEPTOR RECOGNITION RECEPTION

The first annual South Central AHEC "Preceptor Recognition Reception" was held on Tuesday, September 19th. Thirty-six Allied Health Preceptors were honored for volunteering to supervise students of their own professions, who choose rural rotations. Twelve representatives from the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky, along with AHEC staff, awarded certificates of appreciation to the preceptors in attendance.

The reception was held at the Haycraft House in Elizabethtown. Guest speakers were Dr. Richard Swigart, Director of the University of Louisville's College of Allied Health, and Dr. Thomas Robinson, Dean of the College of Allied Health Professions at the University of Kentucky. The event served to emphasize and recognize the number of individuals who contribute to the success of the Allied Health rotations.

## ROTATION REMARKS

"I learned a fantastic amount about patient relations and medical practices in the family setting . . . this whole thing made my impression of rural medicine improve 100%. Give Dr. Koff an A+. I couldn't have hoped for a better rotation." Family Practice Clerkship, New Castle.

"Mark Mathis is an exceptional instructor. His patience with my questions made me certain that he really cared about my progress. . . It was an overall wonderful learning experience." Cytotech. Student, Hardin Memorial Hospital, Elizabethtown

"I wish I had another 4 weeks." Medical Student, Internal Medicine Associates, Bowling Green.

## HEALTH CAREERS PROMOTION PROJECT

Lucy Juett  
Center Director

The South Central AHEC has created a Health Careers Promotion Task Force to educate students and parents about the opportunities health careers provide and statewide program options at every educational level. The Task Force will encourage middle school, high school, and non-traditional students to consider a career in health as a viable option.

The twenty-seven counties of this AHEC region will be divided into four subregions, with a Task Force serving each of the following combined counties:

### Region 1

Bullitt, Meade, Hardin, Larue, Grayson, Breckinridge

### Region 2

Trimble, Shelby, Spencer, Henry Nelson, Washington, Marion

### Region 3

Barren, Allen, Simpson, Hart Metcalfe, Warren, Edmonson

### Region 4

Clinton, Monroe, Russell, Adair Cumberland, Taylor, Green

A member of the AHEC staff will chair the Task Force, along with additional staff being assigned to provide assistance to each region. Each region will elect on an annual basis a Chairperson, Chair-elect, and a secretary.

The need for a Health Careers Promotion Task Force is recognized by the Kentucky Hospital Association, who has offered support to this program. Members of the Task Force will include representation from the

various health care providers, medical auxiliaries, long term care associations, chambers of commerce, civic groups such as scouting organizations and 4-H clubs, guidance counselors and the school system including vocational, middle, and high schools, community colleges and universities.

Each Regional Task Force will plan a minimum of three projects a year, according to what they decide would be appropriate for their area counties. Future editions of the AHEC VISION newsletter will highlight these programs.

Interested volunteers from all four regions will meet sometime this fall in Elizabethtown.

If you are interested in serving on the Health Careers Promotion Task Force for your region, please contact the South Central Kentucky AHEC office at Western Kentucky University (502) 745-3325.



Dr. Kathy Smith, a family practice resident, recently spoke on health careers to an attentive audience at the Girls Club in Bowling Green.

## LIBRARY SERVICES

Pamela Jarboe  
Library Services Coordinator

An important factor in the retention of health professionals in rural areas is the availability of current medical information. A survey of the medical libraries in the twenty-two hospitals in the South Central AHEC region was recently conducted.

The results of the survey were not unexpected. Only one hospital has a full-time librarian. In over half of the facilities, the directors of medical records have the responsibility of responding to information requests. Several of the hospitals are lacking in computers, modems, or fax machines that would enable access to information.

The South Central AHEC is interested in establishing a library resource network which will improve accessibility of information. The networks will encourage area hospitals to share resources with other hospitals.

Several library services are already being offered through the South Central AHEC to health professionals, institutions, and students participating in rotations through AHEC. These include:

- Computer Searches
- Bibliographies
- Abstracts
- Reference Services
- Gathering articles and information
- User Education
- Technical Assistance

For services or information contact:

Pamela Jarboe  
Monday-Friday 8:00 - 4:30 (CST)  
at AHEC (502) 745-3325  
or "Fax" number  
(502) 745-5928