

A.T.T.A.C.

AHLC Tobacco Training And Cessation

USF Area Health Education Center Program

Dear Educator:

The University of South Florida Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is pleased to announce that for the tenth consecutive year, we will continue to offer an abstinence-based, anti-tobacco curriculum for area middle schools. As part of the statewide AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation (A.T.T.A.C.) program, over 300 health professions students will be trained this year by USF AHEC faculty to deliver a **tobacco prevention** lesson tailored to 6th-8th grade middle school students.

As you know, youth are extremely vulnerable to the allure of substances and frequently experiment with tobacco and other drugs. Statewide efforts to decrease initiation of smoking among adolescents need to be reinforced continually if the gains made in recent years are to be sustained. USF AHEC wants to reinforce and build upon this success.

Health professions students are ideal role models for delivering an anti-tobacco lesson that compliments the existing tobacco curriculum to middle school students. The message *to* students *from* students promotes healthy choices and avoiding the dangers of tobacco.

The A.T.T.A.C. Day of Service has been conducted with great success for the past ten years by USF AHEC in partnership with the USF Colleges of Medicine and Nursing, the School of Physical Therapy, and the Florida A & M University School of Pharmacy. With the support and assistance of our local school system, last year more than 4,000 health professions students taught over 25,000 middle school students in Hillsborough, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Charlotte, Desoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties.

This year, we once again ask for your support. Our health professions students are available to visit classrooms during both the fall and spring semesters. Teachers will be contacted ahead of time and given the opportunity of having a team of 3-6 university students assigned to their classrooms for the day. Participating teachers will be provided with copies of this year's newly revised lesson plan and an informational gift packet. The A.T.T.A.C. lesson plan, which has been approved by the State of Florida, Department of Health, and the Florida State Legislature, also meets several Sunshine State Benchmarks and comes with FCAT writing prompts to assist teachers in preparing their students for testing.

More than 5 million children alive today will die prematurely from smoking-related illnesses. Moreover, nearly every adult smoker (9 out of 10) tried his or her first cigarette as a teenager. Tobacco prevention must start early. Your support for A.T.T.A.C. ensures that children learn about the dangers of tobacco before falling victim to it.

Should you have questions about this program, please contact me at 813-974-2180. Again, your approval and endorsement of this activity are critical to its success. USF AHEC looks forward to partnering with you again this year for the health of our youth. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Carvalho Salemi, MPH
Tobacco Training and Cessation Program Planner

Sponsored by USF Area Health Education Center and the Florida Department of Health



Area Health Education Center Program, College of Medicine
University of South Florida • 12901 N Bruce B Downs Blvd. MDC76 • Tampa, FL 33612-4799
Office: 813-974-2180 • Fax: 813-974-3605

