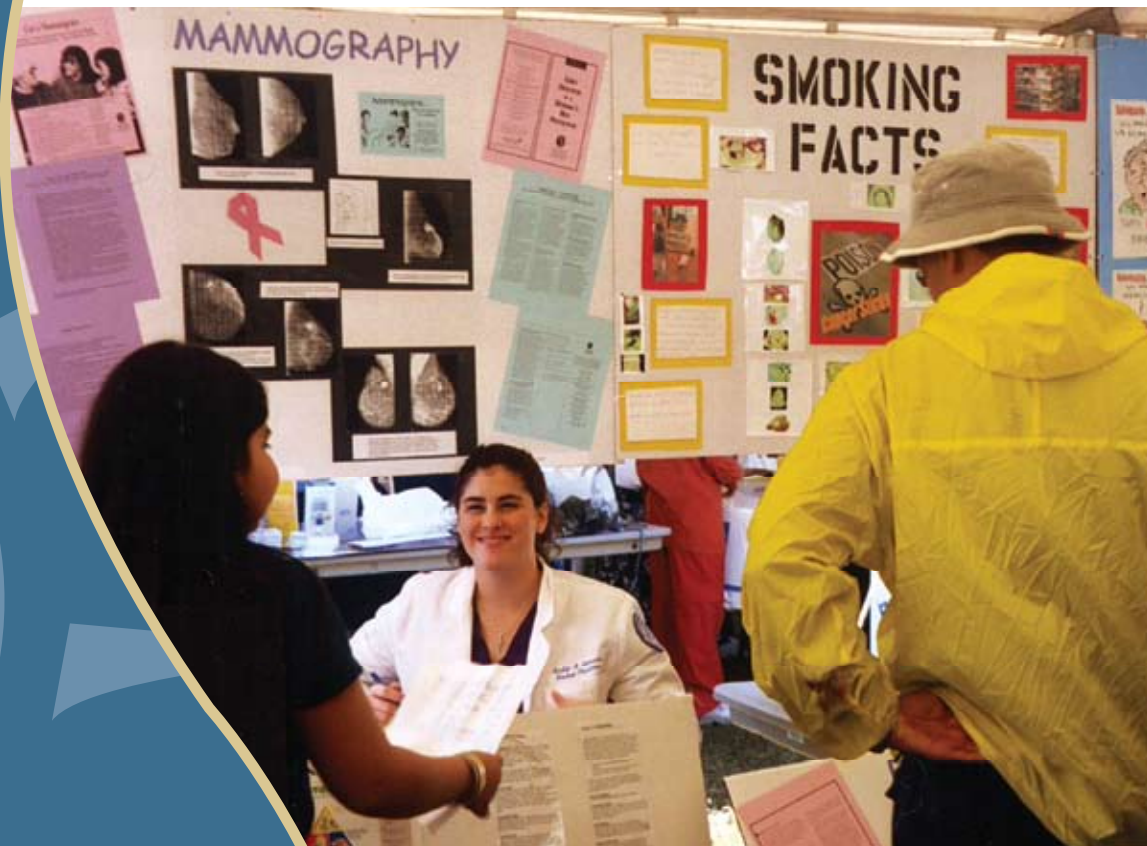


Florida AHEC Network



AHEC *The Florida AHEC Network*

AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS

Annual Report 2007

FROM THE AHEC PRESIDENT



Barbara E. Richardson, PhD
Florida AHEC President

On behalf of the Florida Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network, I am pleased to present you with this annual report highlighting our accomplishments over the past year.

AHEC is an extensive, statewide system for health professional education and support. It is comprised of 10 regional centers strategically located around the state. Each center is linked to a program office housed in one of the state's five medical schools. This structure enables us to tap into the resources of the academic health programs and place thousands of health professions students and faculty at sites that care for the medically underserved.

The Florida AHEC Network Mission:

To create community and academic partnerships for the health of underserved communities.

AHEC works closely with partners such as county health departments, community/migrant health centers and the Florida Department of Health to improve access to health care. We offer continuing education programs, information resources, and technical assistance to help providers stay current with best practices and reduce their sense of professional isolation. We also help recruit

healthcare practitioners to work in underserved sites.

AHEC's student enrichment and recruitment activities target resources to programs that create interest in health careers, particularly among underrepresented minority and disadvantaged youth. With the increasing diversity of Florida's growing population, the presence of a multicultural workforce is critical to insuring culturally appropriate healthcare.

As you will read, the Florida AHEC Network provides tremendous benefit to the state and is essential to its medical safety net system. We are honored to serve Florida's most vulnerable individuals as well as the dedicated individuals who care for them.

Barbara E. Richardson, Ph.D.
Florida AHEC President

FROM THE FLORIDA SURGEON GENERAL



State Surgeon General
Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros

The Florida Department of Health is pleased to continue its longstanding history of partnership with the Florida AHEC Network. In furthering the Department's mission of promoting and protecting the health and safety of all Floridians, the Florida AHEC Network plays an important role in promoting health and improving access to care in Florida's medically underserved communities.

In their capacity as a bridge between the resources of academic health programs and needy communities, AHEC is able to facilitate

clinical training for health professions students and residents in medically underserved community-based sites throughout the state. Last year, this resulted in over 1,150,000 hours of care to almost 1,170,000 needy Floridians. And through its health education initiatives, AHEC conducted almost 34,000 screenings last year.

AHEC also helps sustain the dedicated physicians, nurse practitioners, physicians' assistants and many other health professionals who care for the underserved through its continuing education programs and support services. These programs are designed to enhance the quality of patient care by keeping providers apprised of best practices and the latest advances in primary care while minimizing time away from a busy practice. More than 20,000 health professionals participated last year in educational programs on topics such as diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, women's health and minority health.

With a focus on the future needs of Florida's health professions workforce, AHEC nurtures a new generation of health care providers through its youth recruitment and enrichment programs. These programs attract a diverse and talented cross section of youth with an interest in health care and provide them with guidance to become successful professionals. Over 17,000 youth were reached by AHEC's health career programs and presentations last year.

The Florida AHEC Network shares the Department of Health's goal of providing quality services to all Floridians and promoting healthy communities. As we continue to work toward addressing the increasing challenges facing the state, the Florida AHEC Network will continue to serve as a valuable partner in extending health care resources to medically underserved communities throughout the state.

Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros
State Surgeon General

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FLAHEC: Maximizing Impact

In FY 2007, the Florida AHEC Network received **\$11.8 million** in funds from the legislature to implement local programs and services in medically underserved communities throughout the state.

The Florida AHEC Network amplified the state's investment by almost **68%**, providing a total return of **\$19.8 million** in actual service delivery. AHEC accomplished this through a variety of activities highlighted in this annual report.

Almost **\$6 million** of state funds supported direct patient care by AHEC preceptors, residents, and students who provided health care services to an estimated **1,170,000** Floridians. In fact, more than **7,100** health professions students and residents were mobilized to provide **1,158,658** hours of care to Floridians last year.

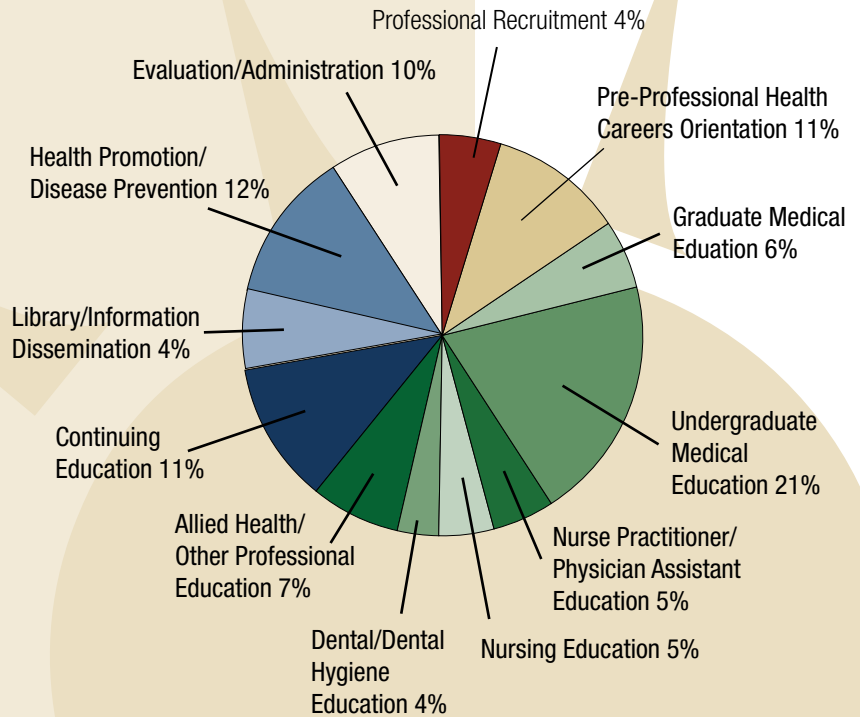
The dollar amount placed on such care is valued at almost \$17.8 million.

Direct patient care services must also be linked with **recruitment, training, retention and health promotion programs** in order to have a lasting effect. AHEC allocated over **\$1.2 million** of state funds to provide community based services to enhance the quality of patient care and safety, provide health promotion/disease prevention services and attract and retain primary care providers to underserved communities and safety net sites. For example, AHEC provided almost **84,000** hours of continuing education programs on topics such as cardiovascular health, tobacco related disease and minority health to more than **14,000** practitioners who care for the underserved. And last year, AHEC delivered more than **110,000** hours of intensive health careers enrichment activities to over **1,400** primary school, community college, technical and university undergraduate students around the state.

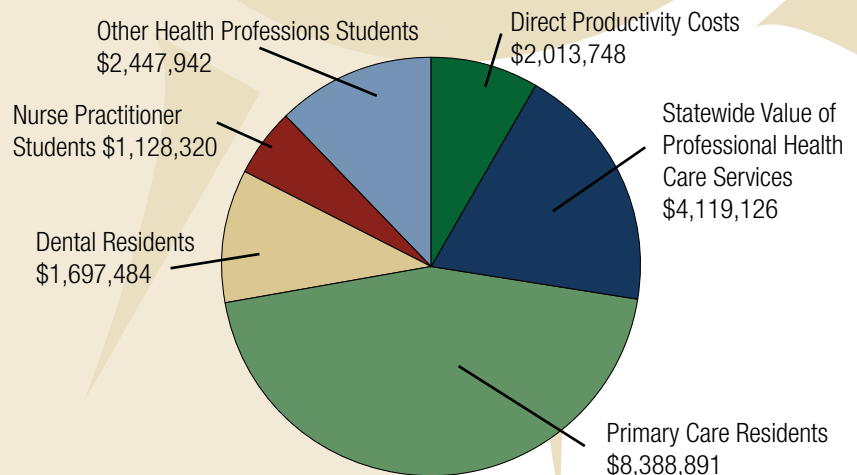
The dollar amount of these and other services is over \$2 million.

The Florida AHEC Network's partnership with academic training programs and community organizations throughout the state creates unique opportunities to address the special needs of underserved populations. This report contains examples of the many innovative approaches the Florida AHEC Network uses to reach, serve and care for many of Florida's most vulnerable citizens.

2006-2007 Allocation of State AHEC Funds
(\$11,808,910)



2006-2007 Value of Actual Services Delivered
(\$19,795,511)



Reaching Out for Heal

BY the NUMBERS:

1,158,658: Last year, the Florida AHEC Network provided over 1,158,000 hours of clinical training to health professions students and residents at community-based settings in order to expose them to the needs, challenges and practice opportunities that exist in these locations. 67% of these hours took place in medically underserved sites.

22% Increase: Since 2001, the Florida AHEC Network has increased its community-based clinical training hours for health professions students by more than 22%. This is the result of AHEC's efforts to increase community-based training in existing health professions programs throughout the state and the creation of an additional medical school.

8 Million: Florida has about 8 million medically disenfranchised people with little or no access to primary care because of the shortage of physicians.



Above: Medical students from NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine provide needed care and inspire future generations of health care providers through the REACH Program.

Opposite: An army of health care professionals and students are ready to be deployed deep into Florida's rural Glades region through NSU's REACH Program.

TALK the TALK:

SERVICE/LEARNING combines the experience of community service with the benefits of academic study and personal reflection. By exposing students to real-life issues and solutions, students gain valuable insight into their future careers.

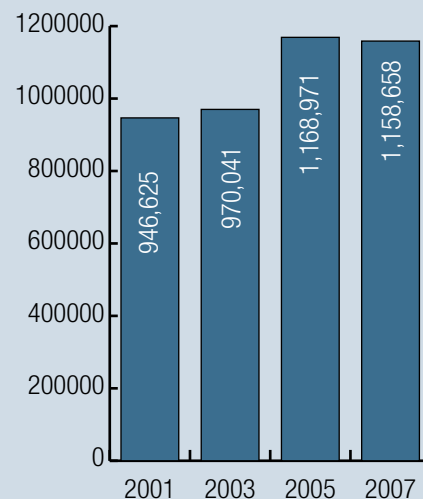
With ten centers strategically located throughout Florida and program offices at each of the state's five medical schools, the Florida AHEC Network is able to promote community health and serve as a vehicle for matching the educational needs of health professions faculty and students with the healthcare needs of local communities.

Service/Learning is extensively used by AHECs as a means to accomplish educational objectives for health professions students while delivering services to underserved populations.

CLINICAL TRAINING is learning that takes place in community-based healthcare settings where residents and students from medicine, nursing, dentistry and other health professions apply the knowledge gained in the classroom to caring for patients.

PRECEPTORS teach and mentor students and residents in an office, clinic or hospital setting.

Florida AHEC Network
Clinical Training Hours
2001-2007



Caring for Communities: Health in South Florida's Glades Region

In an effort to bring greatly needed health care services to medically underserved populations in remote rural areas of South Florida, the Nova Southeastern University AHEC Program and its affiliated Everglades AHEC organized the 2007 Annual Glades REACH Health Fairs for the residents of Belle Glade (Palm Beach County) and Clewiston

(Hendry County). This two-day medical outreach initiative brought together over 200 health professions students and faculty representing the various AHEC affiliated health professions training programs at NSU, Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Community College, and South University.

As in previous years, the overwhelming success of this year's health fairs relied on the participation of over 130 academic and community partners that provided event coordination, financial and logistical support, supplies, and a wide variety of health, social, and educational services. These included the health departments from Palm Beach and Hendry counties, the Glades Planned Approach to Community Health (PATCH) Committee, local hospitals and health care practitioners, and the NSU chapter of the American Medical Student Association.

As a result of this effort, over 1,500 residents who attended the fairs from the predominantly multicultural and low-income towns of Belle Glade, Pahokee, Clewiston, South Bay, and other surrounding communities received over 2,600 medical, dental, vision, audiology, bone density and mammography screenings as well as pharmacy and health education services. In addition, referrals were made for follow-up care and one-on-one education concerning the wide range of medical



conditions that were discovered during the examination process. For many of these residents, the fairs offered a unique opportunity to receive medical or dental care and obtain invaluable information to better manage a health condition.

The many health professions students who participated also gained from the invaluable hands-on educational experience that this multidisciplinary event offered. Medical, dental, nursing, physician assistant, and other allied health students, faculty, and local practitioners worked together to respond to the needs of the community participants who attended. Spanish and Haitian Creole translators and materials also were readily available to assist individuals with limited English language skills.

Terri Calsetta, President of the Glades PATCH Committee, emphasized the need for this major regional AHEC health initiative. "The medical mission we call the Glades REACH Fair is the crowning glory of our partnership with AHEC. No other program has reached so many and done so much good. Thousands of people have received needed

medical services they would not have had access or funds to obtain in any way other than through the efforts of the Nova Southeastern University AHEC Program."

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

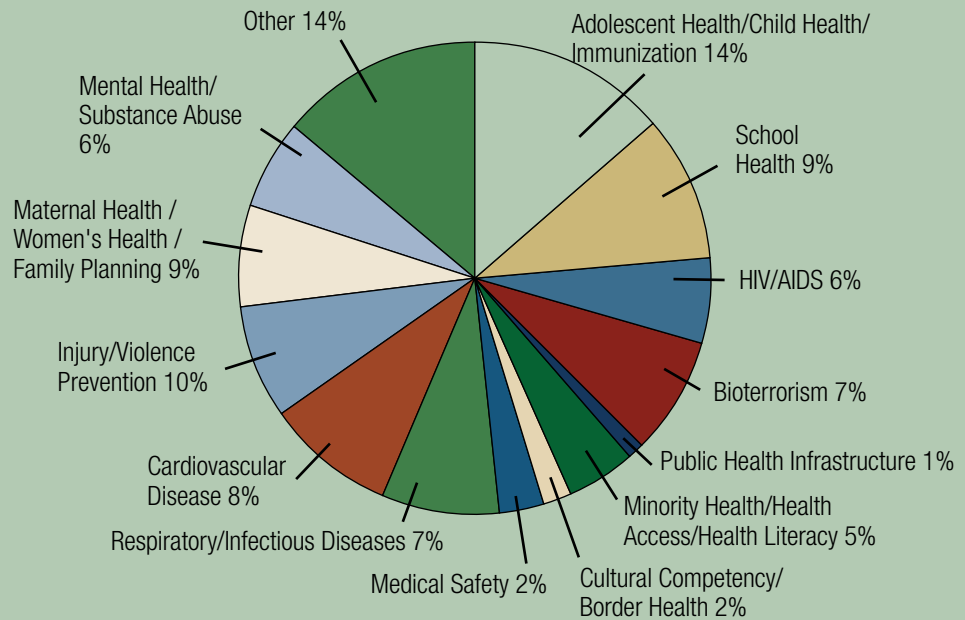
Nationally, the shortage of primary care providers is expected to continue and worsen. By 2020, approximately 90,000 more doctors will be needed than will be available. Rural and underserved communities will be especially hard hit by this shortfall.



Above: B.E.S.T. student Kendal Davis pursues success from all angles.
Right: Ernest Moore with his Life Coach/Mentor, Ms. Jeannette Bradley (left) and B.E.S.T. Board Member Dr. Nicholas Pavouris.



Professional Continuing Education Programs (Percentage of 113,901 Participant Hours)



EC Mentor Wants the BEST for Kids

Connecting Communities with Resources

Dexter Frederick, M.D., ignites the imaginations of those around him.

As a former AHEC preceptor, Dr. Frederick ushered many medical students through AHEC clinical rotations at the Tampa Community Health Center. His students and patients benefited from his tremendous dedication and compassionate care. Dr. Frederick's work with disadvantaged families ultimately inspired him to start a youth program called Brain Expansions Scholastic Training (BEST), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating a long-lasting, positive impact in the lives of disadvantaged youth, with specific encouragement and exposure toward health-related careers.

Dr. Frederick wanted BEST to provide health careers education, intensive tutoring using memory skills, field experiences at healthcare facilities, interaction with healthcare professionals, opportunities to learn about the human body and college preparation for older students. He turned to his colleagues at AHEC for expertise in curriculum planning and organizational development.

BEST works collaboratively with Gulfcoast North Area Health Education Center, Inc. (GNAHEC) to inspire youth to choose careers in health. GNAHEC provided seed money for BEST when it began in East Tampa in 2004. Staff from GNAHEC served on the board of directors and helped design the program's foundation including establishing partnerships with public school educators, local businesses, and community groups. GNAHEC Executive Director, Jody Lazzara, chairs the admissions committee and helps identify youth that would benefit from the program. Other AHEC staff members provide valuable contributions to the program's instructional content and technical assistance with newsletters and media relations.

To date, more than 60 students have been helped by BEST. Ernest Moore, 14, is a prime example.

At 12 years of age, Ernest was having a tough time in school. He had failed his FCAT and had been held back from being promoted to the next grade level twice. He was highly competitive but often bullied other kids. His aunt, Jeannette Bradley, got him involved in BEST. According to her, "The students and mentors liked Ernest, but he wasn't easy to work with."

Through BEST, Dr. Frederick and his team of mentors worked diligently with Ernest and channeled his competitiveness to his advantage. He mastered the game

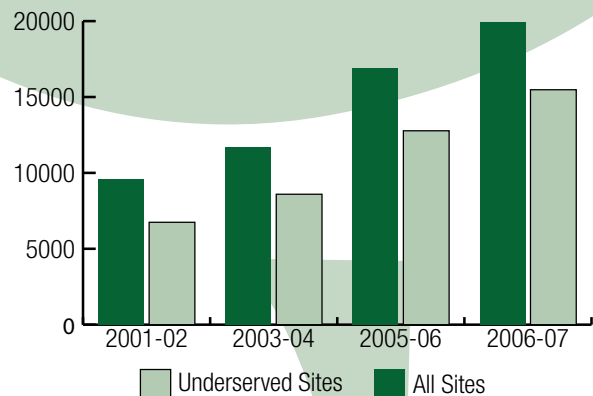


Dexter Frederick, M.D.

of chess and learned memory strategies. Ernest's grades and behavior markedly improved. He no longer bullied other kids. Within two years, he passed the FCAT and was double promoted. Now 14, he is in the seventh grade and is taking two advanced math classes. He was awarded the BEST "Most Improved Student" due to his complete turnaround, not only in school but in life.

Congratulations to Ernest and the other participants of the BEST program, and to Dr. Frederick for inspiring youth to choose careers in health!

Continuing Education Participants from All Sites and Underserved Sites 2001-2007



BY the NUMBERS:

114,000: The Florida AHEC Network provided health care professionals around the state with almost 114,000 hours of continuing education programs. That's a 35% increase in hours from 2006.

20,000: Almost 20,000 health care providers received continuing professional education from the Florida AHEC Network. Over 75% of these individuals were from underserved sites.

5,400: Florida AHEC Network staff provided over 5,400 hours of technical assistance to partners in community clinics, schools, health departments, community health centers, social service agencies and other organizations.

Coming Home Brings Stu

TALK the TALK:

CULTURALLY REFLECTIVE HEALTHCARE

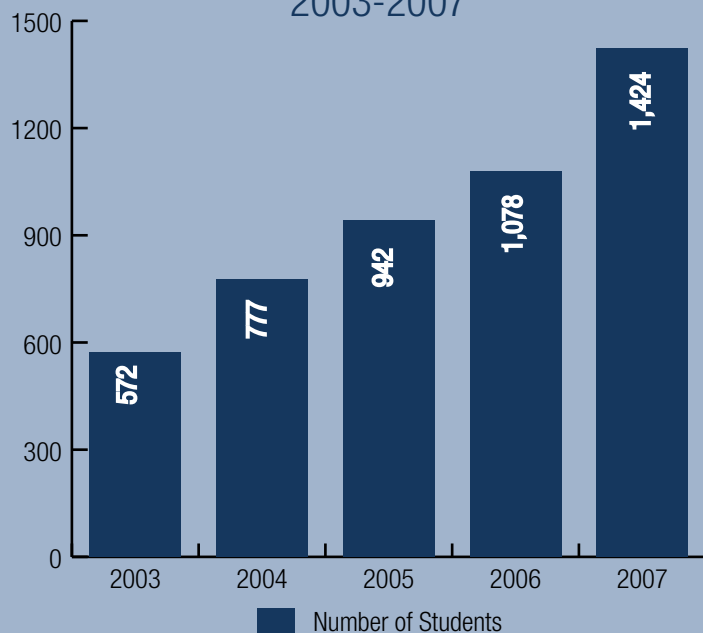
allows patients an opportunity to be treated by health care providers who are similar to their own racial/ethnic backgrounds. Patients rate their physicians' decision-making styles as more participatory.

HEALTH CAREERS PIPELINE

recruits young people, especially underrepresented minorities and disadvantaged youth, from elementary school to college, into health professions training programs and follows them through their professional training with the goal of having them practice in rural and underserved areas.

STUDENT ENRICHMENT programs such as health career camps, mentoring programs and academic preparatory courses are designed to generate interest in health careers particularly among disadvantaged and underrepresented youth.

Florida AHEC Network Enrichment Program Participants 2003-2007



By the Numbers

110,900: Over **110,900** hours of enrichment programs were provided to students in grades K-12 as well as to students in technical schools, community colleges and universities. Of **1,424** students attending these programs, **71%** were racially underrepresented or economically disadvantaged.

32%: Increase in number of AHEC enrichment program participants since last year.

"I want to make a difference..."

Chelsea Boston & Big Bend AHEC



Chelsea Boston

Chelsea Boston worked closely with Big Bend AHEC and Panhandle Area Health Network over the summer to design a community-level intervention to reduce the infant mortality rate in Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington counties. "I want to make a difference with my life," she said, "and I feel that can best be accomplished by practicing medicine in a rural town." Chelsea was accepted to FSU College of Medicine's Rural Track Medical Education Program in Jackson County.

Pursuing the Path to Healthcare dent's Success Back to Small Town

As a 15 year old small town girl growing up in Cottondale, Brigitta Cintron Nuccio heard the phrase, “big fish in a small pond” a lot. “I thought people believed kids from small towns never amounted to much.” So when folks from Big Bend AHEC came to her high school to talk about a health careers summer camp, she thought “Here’s my chance!” Little did she know just how much a summer camp with Big Bend AHEC would affect her life.

Big Bend AHEC made it clear to Brigitta that they believed in her and that she could accomplish anything she wanted. “It meant so much to know that there was an organization that cared enough about small town kids.” Each year, 25 students from schools Big Bend AHEC serves in 14 Northwest Florida counties are selected to participate in a week-long health careers camp in Tallahassee. Brigitta applied and was thrilled when chosen to attend. She shadowed a neurosurgeon and says she almost passed out watching carpal tunnel surgery, but faced her greatest fear—blood! “I got over my fear and from then on, I knew I could pursue my dream of a career in health.” She returned to the camp the following year as a junior counselor and was amazed by how encouraging Big Bend AHEC was.

After high school, Brigitta attended FSU and graduated magna cum laude with a degree in biological science. She worked at Big Bend AHEC while she attended FSU and enjoyed helping accomplish the mission of improving access to quality healthcare in rural and medically underserved areas.

Brigitta’s next move was to Gainesville to attend the UF College of Medicine’s Physician Assistant (PA) program. During her second year of PA school, she signed up for many AHEC rotations in Jackson County where she had grown up. Upon graduation, she moved to the Tampa area to begin her career. Eventually, Brigitta realized she wanted to return to her hometown to be near her family and serve the residents of Jackson County. She packed up her brood and returned to Cottondale. “I turned to my colleagues at Big Bend AHEC when I began looking for work and was presented with an offer to work with them as a Smoking Cessation Consultant. It felt like destiny!” Brigitta had come full circle and returned to the AHEC family no longer as a student but as a clinician. “My experience as a PA definitely helps me as I strive to continue to make AHEC and my community proud in my new role.”

Brigitta says, “A very wise man once told me, ‘Find a job you love and you’ll never work a day in your whole life!’ Because of AHEC, I’ve found that job and a life I love.”



Physician Assistant Brigitta Nuccio’s relationship with AHEC began in high school and has lasted to this day.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

- Florida has the oldest physician workforce in the nation (26% over the age of 65).
- Only 9% of Florida’s physicians are age 35 or younger.
- Forty percent of registered nurses will be 50 years of age or older by 2010.
- Florida continues to be one of the fastest growing states in the country and is projected to grow 60% between 2000 and 2030.

BY the NUMBERS:

2.3 million: The number of Floridians living in health professions shortage areas. An additional 608 primary care physicians are needed to meet their basic health care needs.

61,000: By 2020, Florida will need 61,000 more nurses than are currently projected to be available.

38%: The percentage of medical students nationally choosing primary care residency programs in 2007.

61%: The percentage of residents that remained in Florida after completing their residency programs.

20%: The percentage of Florida MDs who graduated from Florida medical schools.

Medical Reserve Corps finds a Home at AHEC

The Florida Keys is a popular vacation site with a population fluctuating between 80,000 and 150,000. The highly traveled nature of this area combined with geographic isolation, exposed coasts and highly active hurricane seasons are some of the reasons it has been designated as a state Area of Critical Concern. These are also some of the reasons for the formation of The Florida Keys Medical Reserve Corps.

Medical Reserve Corps units are composed of community-led, community-based volunteers who assist medical response professionals and facilities during large-scale local emergencies, such as naturally occurring influenza epidemics, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, or acts of terrorism. Volunteers can include current or retired health professionals (such as physicians, nurses, mental health professionals, dentists, dental assistants, pharmacists and veterinarians), social workers, communications/public relations professionals, health care administrators and clergy, among others.

For the past four years, The Florida Keys Medical Reserve Corps has been under the supervision of the Monroe County Health Department, with the Florida Keys AHEC providing education and training. The roster of volunteers has grown to encompass over 70 local health care professionals and over 80 medical students from the University of Miami.

The Medical Reserve Corps is intended to supplement and support existing systems with volunteers who are trained to function effectively in emergency situations.

In addition to emergency preparedness and response, MRC members may volunteer to help present community health education trainings, participate in cardiovascular screenings and offer assistance to clinics providing flu vaccinations and childhood immunizations.

The Florida Keys Medical Reserve Corps functions in both emergency and non-emergency situations, working with all local agencies dedicated to supporting community medical services.



Prior to his retirement, Acting U.S. Surgeon General Rear Admiral Kenneth Moritsugu, M.D., M.P.H. (center) addressed first responders involved with the Florida Keys Medical Reserve Corps. Here Dr. Moritsugu is accompanied by Keith Harris of Florida Keys AHEC and nurse Rhonda Piner, Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator.

Miami DOCS Are Healthcare Heroes

For over 30 years, medical students attending the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine have had an opportunity to participate in entirely student run health fairs that provide healthcare to the poor and medically underserved members of their community.

The first of these health fairs, held in Key West in 1972, not only continues annually, but the student organized events have expanded to 8 underserved communities in the region and now include additional activities such as staffing emergency shelters and conducting weekly clinics for the medically needy. In 2000, with support from the UM AHEC program, all of these medical student volunteer activities were brought together under one umbrella organization called DOCS (Doctors of Community Service). Through DOCS, over 250 UM medical students are developing their own leadership, organizational, patient education and preventive medicine skills while providing quality healthcare to the underserved of South Florida. DOCS has a formal leadership and organizational structure with clearly defined roles and responsibilities that allow the community programs to endure from year to year as new medical students matriculate. DOCS also has protocols in place to ensure that students have the requisite medical skills to participate in the activities. The DOCS leadership team meets monthly with UM AHEC program office and center staff who provide technical and other assistance to support the student volunteer activities in underserved communities.

The medical student volunteers are supervised by UM faculty as they screen for conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, obesity, depression and a variety of cancers. Patients at risk are referred to a system of agencies for follow up care. Over 1,500 patients each year receive services through UM DOCS.

According to Dr. Arthur Fournier, UM AHEC Program Director and long-time DOCS faculty advisor, "The skills required to conduct such a project are rarely formally taught in medical school. I believe these are skills that will be needed in future practice. As the experience evolved, it has also become an important vehicle to teach social responsibility."

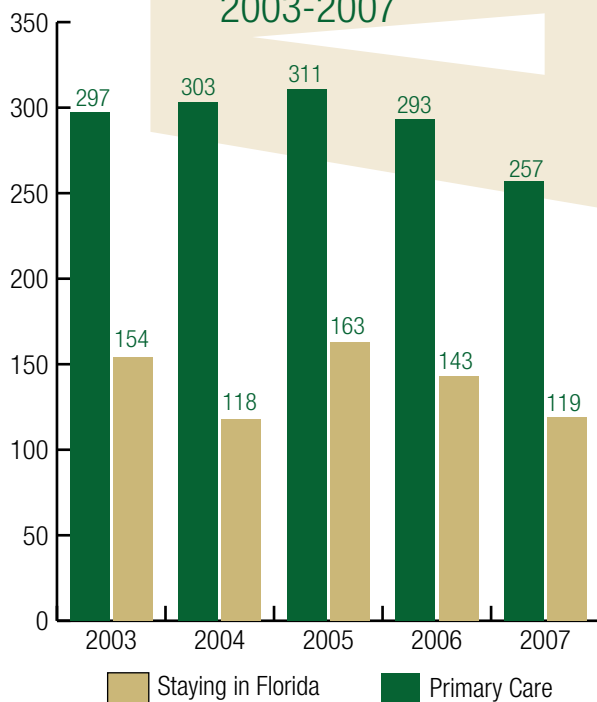
The UM DOCS Program won a 2007 Health Care Heroes Award from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce for its work in the community. "These physicians in training are truly remarkable," said Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., senior vice president for medical affairs and dean



The UM Miller School of Medicine DOCS Program was honored with a 2007 Health Care Heroes Award from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.

of the Miller School of Medicine. "When most young people would be spending what little free time they have on the beach, these students are spending it with the people who need them most. Their commitment and dedication to the medically underserved reflects a level of concern unprecedented among medical students, and I am very proud to be their dean."

Florida Medical Students Selecting Primary Care Residencies 2003-2007



Rural SSTRIDEs Tow

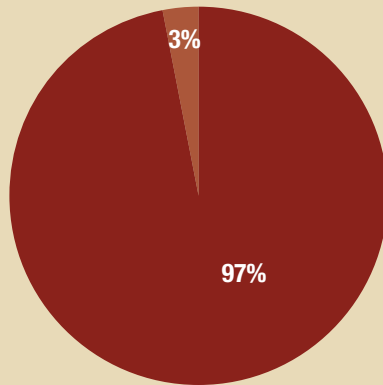


Executive director and program founder Thesla Berne-Anderson, M.S., (center) has overseen FSU's SSTRIDE program since 1994.

The Florida State University College of Medicine (FSUCOM) along with Big Bend and West Florida AHEC are making huge SSTRIDEs toward increasing student diversity in Florida's newest medical college. SSTRIDE, which stands for Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity & Excellence, is continuing to play a major role in reducing the gap in healthcare disparities in Florida. Created in Tallahassee/Leon County in 1993 to provide educational support for students with varied interests (medicine, math, health, engineering, and science), SSTRIDE's trademark has been its ability to create a comprehensive program of support that increases the number of minority and rural students applying, matriculating, and successfully completing medical and health-care programs. SSTRIDE assists the medical school by continually increasing a diverse student population consistent with the college's mission.

The curriculum for the FSUCOM SSTRIDE program consists of pre-college and collegiate components designed to assist in student development, academic achievement and community involvement.

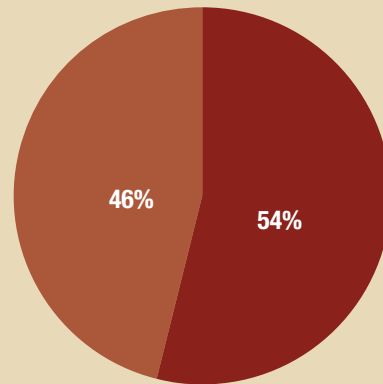
Figure 1.
Pre-College SSTRIDE Graduate Data
1994-2004



Data accumulated from 112 graduates over a 13 year span

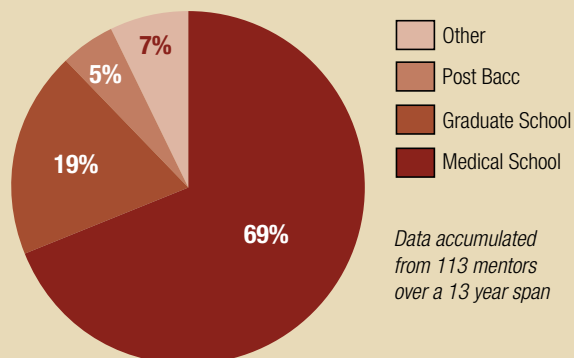
- Total Enlisted in the Military
- Total Enrolled in College

Figure 2.
Percentage of Students in Science Majors



- Total Non-Science Majors
- Total Science Majors

Figure 3.
SSTRIDE Mentors
Medical & Graduate School Data



Data accumulated from 113 mentors over a 13 year span

ward Increasing Diversity In Florida

The middle school program offers an advanced anatomy and physiology course as a science elective to selected students in 7th and 8th grades. Premedical college students from Florida State University, Florida A & M University, Tallahassee Community College, Okaloosa-Walton College and North Florida Community College assist with teaching. These students are part of the premedical SSTRIDE program and serve as teaching assistants, tutors and mentors.

The high school program for Tallahassee/Leon County provides an “after school” opportunity for three local high schools. Students are transported to the FSU College of Medicine in SSTRIDE vans. These high school students are provided with academic tutoring, standardized test preparation, enrichment activities, research projects and admission and financial aid seminars for three hours a day, four days a week. The students are also exposed to career shadowing opportunities and externships with local healthcare facilities and physician offices.

SSTRIDE students in the rural counties (Gadsden, Madison, and Okaloosa) receive advanced academic coursework in biology and chemistry as part of their high school curriculum, as well as after school tutoring. These students are also exposed to enrichment activities, such as shadowing and externships, test preparation and health career advisement opportunities.

The SSTRIDE collegiate program serves as an extension of the precollege program and offers the same types of support services for undergraduate students who enter FSU as freshmen. Most of these students are majoring in biology, chemistry, or human sciences. The overall program structure provides, tutoring, mentoring, review of personal statements, mock interviews, premedical advising, professional development workshops, study groups, and test preparation for Medical College Admissions Test. The program also provides a clinical component for ten well-deserving students.

Since its inception, SSTRIDE has served about 500 pre-college students, 60% of which have remained with the program for at least two years or more. 112 seniors in the program have graduated, yielding a college entrance rate of 97% (with the remaining 3% opting to serve in the military. Eighty percent of SSTRIDE students received Bright Futures Scholarships and increased their SAT score an average 140 points. At the collegiate level, 69% of the 113 SSTRIDE mentors and teaching assistants have matriculated to medical school.

With the continuing support of Big Bend and West Florida AHECs, SSTRIDE is not only impacting the ‘physician shortage’ trend, it is also providing a sense of pride and confidence to the rural communities. This program is demonstrating to various communities, especially those in rural areas, that within their own confines there exists a group of students willing to take on such a challenge.



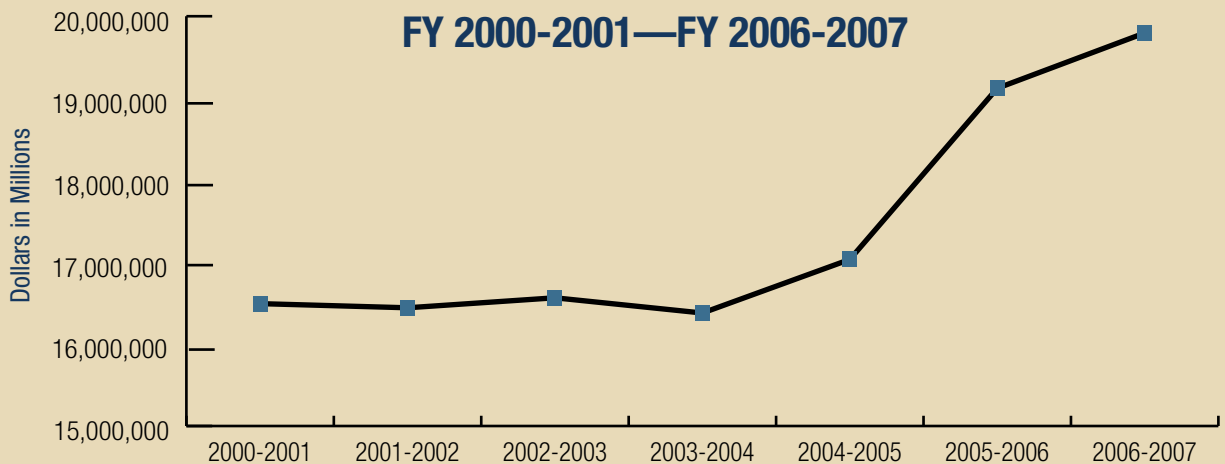
An example of SSTRIDE’s phenomenal success is Uchenna Ikediobi (above left mentoring future healthcare professionals). Having completed the precollege and collegiate SSTRIDE programs, she was accepted into the college of medicine at FSU where she is now a third year medical student.

Since its inception, SSTRIDE has served about 500 pre-college students, 60% of which have remained with the program for at least two years or more. 112 seniors in the program have graduated, yielding a college entrance rate of 97%.

OUR RETURN ON INVESTMENT

This report has highlighted the strategies used by the Florida AHEC Network to deliver valuable services and extend the resources of Florida's health professions training programs to communities around the state. The Florida AHEC Network succeeds in accomplishing these activities while significantly amplifying the state's original investment. In fact, the Florida AHEC Network has yielded a consistently high return on the state's investment.

**Florida AHEC Network Added Value
FY 2000-2001—FY 2006-2007**



BY the NUMBERS:

41st place: Florida continues to rank near the bottom in a national assessment of health indicators.

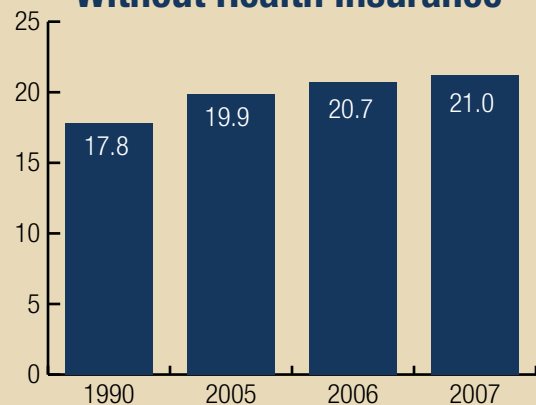
47th place: The number of Floridians estimated to be without health insurance is over 3.7 million, placing the state near the bottom of national rankings.

21.2%: Over 1 in 5 Floridians is uninsured, more than any other state except Texas and New Mexico.

The importance of providing access to health care cannot be overstated. In the United Health Foundation annual survey of health indicators, Florida has consistently ranked near the bottom. The state has struggled to make and sustain improvements in health while in many cases health disparities and access issues persist or worsen.

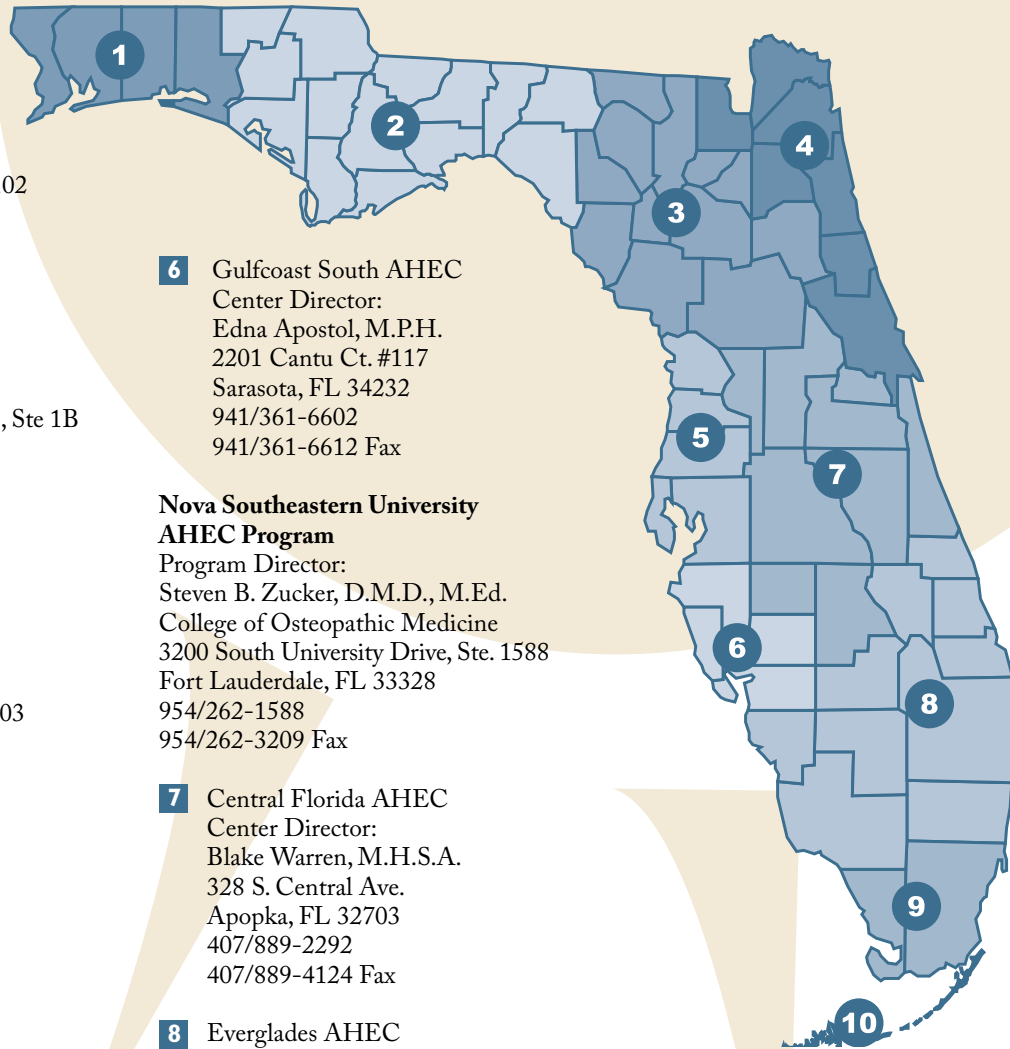
The Florida AHEC Network's longstanding commitment to improving health access and caring for those in need would not be possible without the support of our partners. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you for the health of underserved communities.

Percent of Floridians Without Health Insurance



Source: *America's Health Rankings 2007*
United Health Foundation

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