

**From:** [LCOM Office of the Dean](#)  
**To:** [Gilwee, Vicki M](#)  
**Subject:** On Behalf of the Office of Primary Care and AHEC - AHEC Scholars Program  
**Date:** Friday, March 11, 2022 12:25:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [VT AHEC Scholars Overview.pdf](#)  
[VT AHEC Network Overview.pdf](#)

---

Dear Larner College of Medicine Students, Faculty and Staff,

Over the past four years the UVM Office of Primary Care and Vermont Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Network have been developing the AHEC Scholars Program. This federally and locally funded program provides students with opportunities to focus more deeply on six core topic areas that are highlighted on the enclosed materials. While these topics are included in all medical school curricula, their importance to the health of our communities cannot be overstated. We have created a badge card summary of the focus areas so that students, faculty, and staff can be thoughtful about how we recognize and address these topics in our daily work. These cards have been mailed via campus mail and are available directly from AHEC. Please add this card to your name badge.

We currently collaborate internally across departments and externally with many organizations to offer a Primary Care Spotlight Educational Series; Paid Summer Opportunities (M1 students) for research, quality improvement, or teaching/mentoring; selected Public Health Projects; Family Medicine clerkship; and 4th year elective opportunities.

Our first cohort achieving the AHEC Scholars distinction will graduate with the Class of 2022. If you have any questions about the program or, for students who are not already participating and would like to enroll, please visit the Office of Primary Care website. <http://www.med.uvm.edu/ahec/home> or email [ahec@uvm.edu](mailto:ahec@uvm.edu).

Charles D. MacLean, M.D.  
Associate Dean for Primary Care & AHEC Program

Richard L. Page, M.D.  
Dean

Christa H. Zehle, M.D.  
Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education

The AHEC Scholars Program is a voluntary, nationally recognized program for health professions students. It provides opportunities for students to increase knowledge, strengthen leadership skills, and gain competencies within six broad topic areas.

## AHEC Scholars Core Topic Areas

---

- **Interprofessional Education/Interprofessional Practice:**  
team-based care delivery, patient-centered care, effective teamwork
- **Behavioral Health Integration:**  
services that better address the needs of individuals with mental health and substance use conditions
- **Social Determinants of Health:**  
economic stability, education, social and community context, health and health care, neighborhood and built environment
- **Cultural Competency:**  
recognize and address the unique culture, language and health literacy of diverse consumers and communities, diversity, equity, and inclusion
- **Medical Practice Transformation:**  
quality improvement, care coordination, cost containment, rural health care, primary care, care for underserved/disadvantaged populations, patient-centered care, team-based care
- **Current and Emerging Health Issues:**  
opioids and substance use disorders, oral health as part of overall health, oral health integration, COVID-19

## Benefits of Participation

---

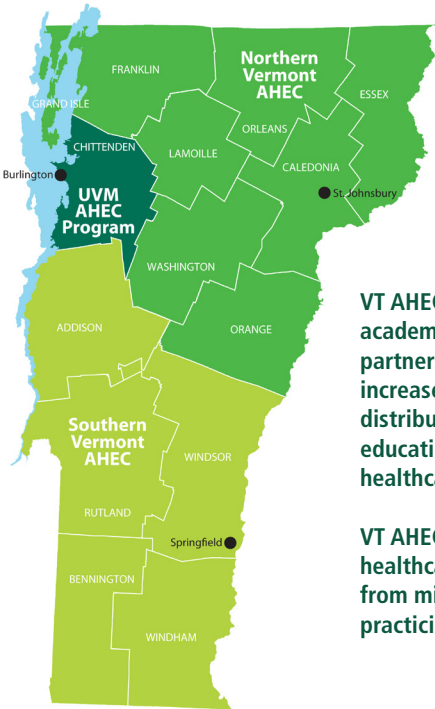
- Six core topic areas provide prompts for reflection: what did you learn and how did you grow, as a person and health professional?
- Enhance educational experience by engaging with those who live in rural and underserved communities
- Gain a deeper understanding of communities through opportunities to hear from and interact with providers, policy makers, community leaders, and others who care for those in rural and underserved populations
- Gain experience and competencies in interprofessional care and care for the underserved
- Designation as a Vermont AHEC Scholar, a nationally recognized distinction (list on C.V. section "Honors and Awards")

## Requirements

---

- Program duration must cover at least two years, with each year including 40-hours of eligible didactic education and 40-hours of eligible experiential or clinical training, for a total of 160-hours of eligible activities. VT AHEC offers a "flexible pathways" approach to meet the AHEC Scholars requirements. Only those students completing all requirements will be designated as "Vermont AHEC Scholars" at time of graduation.

# Vermont Area Health Education Centers



VT AHEC is a network of academic and community partners working together to increase the supply, geographic distribution, diversity, and education of Vermont's healthcare workforce.

VT AHEC works across the healthcare workforce pipeline from middle school students to practicing health professionals.

This work includes:

- health careers awareness and exploration programs for youth
- preceptor recruitment for student clinical rotations
- mentoring community-based projects for students
- opportunities for students to increase knowledge, strengthen leadership skills, and gain competencies (e.g., AHEC Scholars)
- workforce recruitment and retention initiatives (e.g., incentive scholarships, educational loan repayment programs, physician recruitment and placement services)
- continuing education and quality improvement projects for health professionals.

The overarching goal of VT AHEC is to provide statewide health workforce development programs that support an appropriate, current and future, healthcare workforce so that all Vermonters have access to health care.

VT AHEC connects students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health.