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## Showcases Connect Students with Careers

The North Central AHEC provides services and programs in these counties:

Anderson  
Boone  
Bourbon  
Bracken  
Campbell  
Fayette  
Franklin  
Gallatin  
Grant  
Harrison  
Jessamine  
Kenton  
Owen  
Pendleton  
Scott  
Woodford

High school should be the time when students begin to think seriously about their life's work. Unfortunately, many students leave high school without a clear direction. Two large programs recently conducted by the NC AHEC helped over 700 high school students in northern and central Kentucky take a closer look at careers in health care.

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Health Career Showcase in northern Kentucky took place on September 10, 2009, with 614 students from 19 area high schools in northern Kentucky. As the students streamed into the Conner Convocation Center on the Thomas More College campus in Crestview Hills, they were met by a colorful assortment of exhibits and interactive displays. Twenty-eight exhibitors brought displays and materials pertaining to various health professions and occupations. College faculty members, practicing health professionals, and health professions students were on hand to talk about their careers, including information about job responsibilities, educational requirements, salary levels, working conditions and job outlooks. According to Showcase organizer Laura Pears, the purpose of the Showcase was to expose students to the wide variety of careers in health, rather than focusing solely on colleges and universities. Pears, Health Careers Coordinator for the NC AHEC, said "having many careers and practitioners available means that students can get a much better idea of all their options in health care."



Professor Charles Coulson, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, discusses the field of nuclear medicine technology with a student

Many local colleges and universities brought displays and information about health careers. Participating colleges and universities included, among others, Northern

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## AHEC MISSION

The mission of the North Central AHEC is to promote healthy communities through innovative partnerships. This is accomplished by providing:

- Educational support services to health professions students and health care providers;
- Community health education, and
- Programs that encourage health professions as a career choice.

## Showcases Connect Students with Careers (cont.)

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Del Proctor, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical student at Pikeville College School of Osteopathic medicine, talks with students about options in medicine

Kentucky University, Gateway Community and Technical College, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Thomas More College, the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. The interactive displays were very popular with students, and gave them an opportunity to experience the work of the various professions. Many of the exhibits were staffed by health professions students in training, who were eager to share their experiences with the high school students.

The dental laboratory technician exhibit drew many students with the display of various dental molds, instruments and dentures. Faculty members from Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Lexington were on hand to talk with students about the employment outlook and help them as they tried to sculpt and shape plaster molds of teeth. The occupational therapy display, staffed by students from Spalding University in Louisville, showed a variety of adaptive devices. The high school students were especially interested in a selection of tactile materials used with children.

In addition to learning about health careers, information was available about the "Health Career Explorers" program, sponsored by the NC AHEC, St. Elizabeth Healthcare and Learning for Life. Financial aid and loan information was also available

A second Health Career Showcase was held on October 28, 2009 on the campus of Transylvania University. This Showcase, a first for Lexington, attracted 98 students from 5 central Kentucky high schools.

Twelve exhibitors brought displays and materials pertaining to various health professions and occupations. Similar to the northern Kentucky Showcase, students were able to try out equipment, ask questions, and learn about the educational requirements for various careers. Staff members from the University of Kentucky AHEC office were on hand to discuss a variety of summer health career programs on the UK campus. Evaluations from both Health Career Showcases were very positive, with both teachers and students agreeing that the information had been very helpful.



Spalding University occupational therapy students demonstrate tactile therapies used with children



Emily Kemp, a senior at Boone County High School, learns to make dental molds at the dental lab technology exhibit from Bluegrass Community and Technical College

For more information about next year's Health Career Showcases or other health career programs, contact Laura Pears, Health Career Coordinator at (859) 442-1115 or email her at [Laura.Pears@kctcs.edu](mailto:Laura.Pears@kctcs.edu).

## Health Care Students Play Essential Role at Hispanic Health Fair



Lions Club volunteers administered eye tests to 72 children and adults

Since the very first Hispanic Health Fair in 2000, the NC AHEC has been working toward improving the health of the growing Latino population in central and northern Kentucky. The latest Feria de Salud (Hispanic health fair), on Sunday, November 15, 2009, is the most recent example of that commitment.

The fair, which took place at the Centro de Amistad (Center of Friendship) in Erlanger, attracted approximately 250 Hispanic family members. Over 130 community volunteers provided a wide variety of free screening tests and health information. All the services were provided in both Spanish and English. Screening tests included blood pressure, blood cholesterol and glucose tests, vision and dental screening, hearing screening, mammograms, pap smears, HIV/AIDS tests, and pulmonary function tests.



Volunteers from the St. Elizabeth Family Medicine Residency program performed 27 pulmonary function tests.

Health care students from area colleges and universities, as well as area volunteers, were crucial in providing the services. Nursing students from Thomas More College checked blood pressure, height and weight. University of Kentucky



Dixie Heights High School Spanish language students supervised the children's activities

medical students explained the results of the glucose and cholesterol tests, and provided teaching and counseling about health conditions in Spanish. Dental students from the University of Louisville provided the dental screenings under the supervision of local dentists and university dental faculty members. University of Louisville audiology students administered hearing tests to both adults and children.

Fourth year Spanish students at Dixie Heights High School in Edgewood provided a tremendous amount of assistance with interpreting and logistics during the health fair. Under the guidance of their Spanish instructor, Mrs. Lori Dennler, the students were prepared with medical and health related terms in Spanish. The Dixie Heights students also coordinated the children's' activities and health teaching while their parents were being tested.

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AHEC: Promoting the Common Health throughout the Commonwealth

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### Health Care Students Play Essential Role at Hispanic Health Fair *(cont.)*

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Although the fair was organized by the NC AHEC, community organizations were critical to offering many of the services. The Lions Clubs of Erlanger and Covington administered vision tests, and St. Elizabeth Healthcare provided the Women's Wellness Van for mammograms and pap smears. Dr. Mark Boyd and family medicine residents from the St. Elizabeth Family Medicine Residency performed pulmonary function testing. Nursing faculty members from Gateway Community and Technical College administered the glucose and cholesterol tests. Educational materials about social and health services were provided by staff and volunteers from the Red Cross, the Brighton Center, the Women's Crisis Center, the Boone County Cooperative Extension Service, HealthPoint Family Care and the Health Department.

Both the recipients of the services and the staff of the NC AHEC say “*Muchos gracias*” to the many students, organizations and community volunteers who assisted with the Feria de Salud.