



**AHEC**  
SCHOLARS



NATIONAL AHEC ORGANIZATION

# AHEC Report:

**Badges of Distinction;  
Spotlight on Oklahoma**

3RNET annual meeting

Sept. 12, 2023



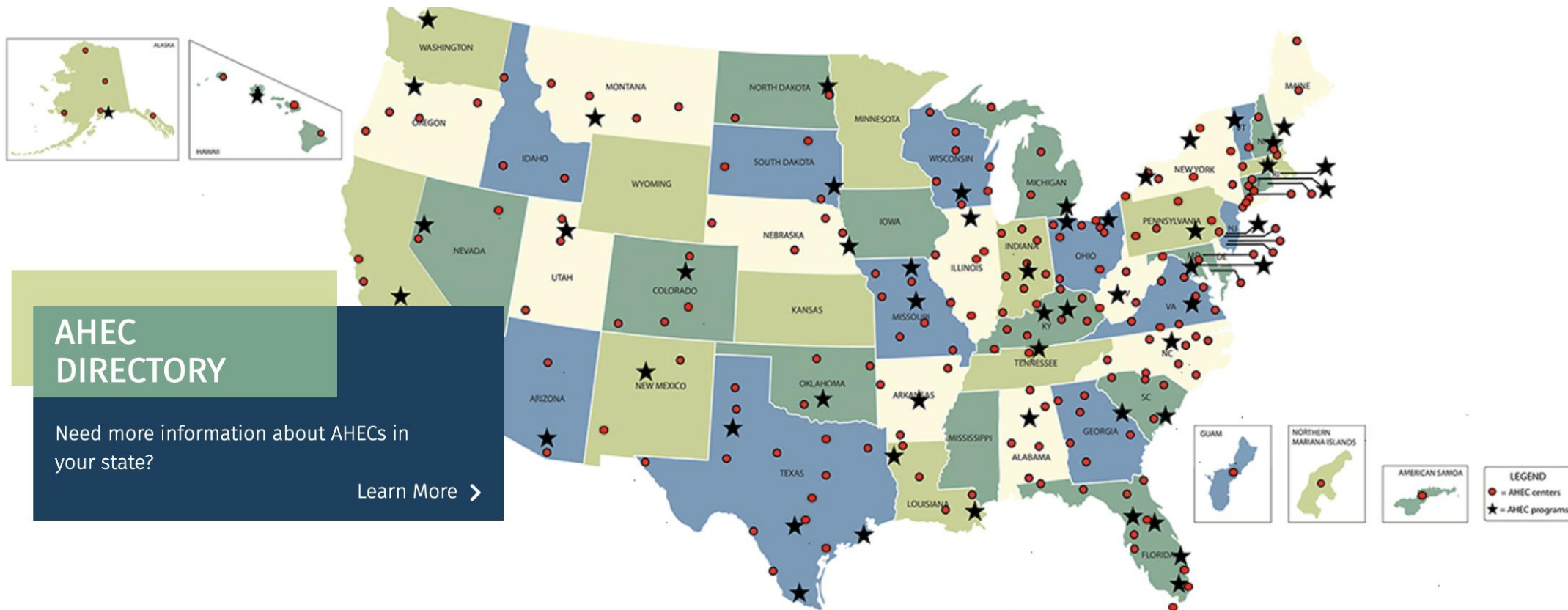
[nationalahec.org](https://nationalahec.org)

# AHEC history/background

- AHEC = Area Health Education Center
- Started by Congress in 1972
- Administered through HRSA
- Currently funded at \$47 million



# AHECs across the nation



# The AHEC Mission

- To enhance access to quality health care, particularly primary and preventive care, **by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare** professionals via strategic partnerships with academic programs, communities, and professional organizations.

## CONNECTING...

Students to Careers

Professionals to Communities

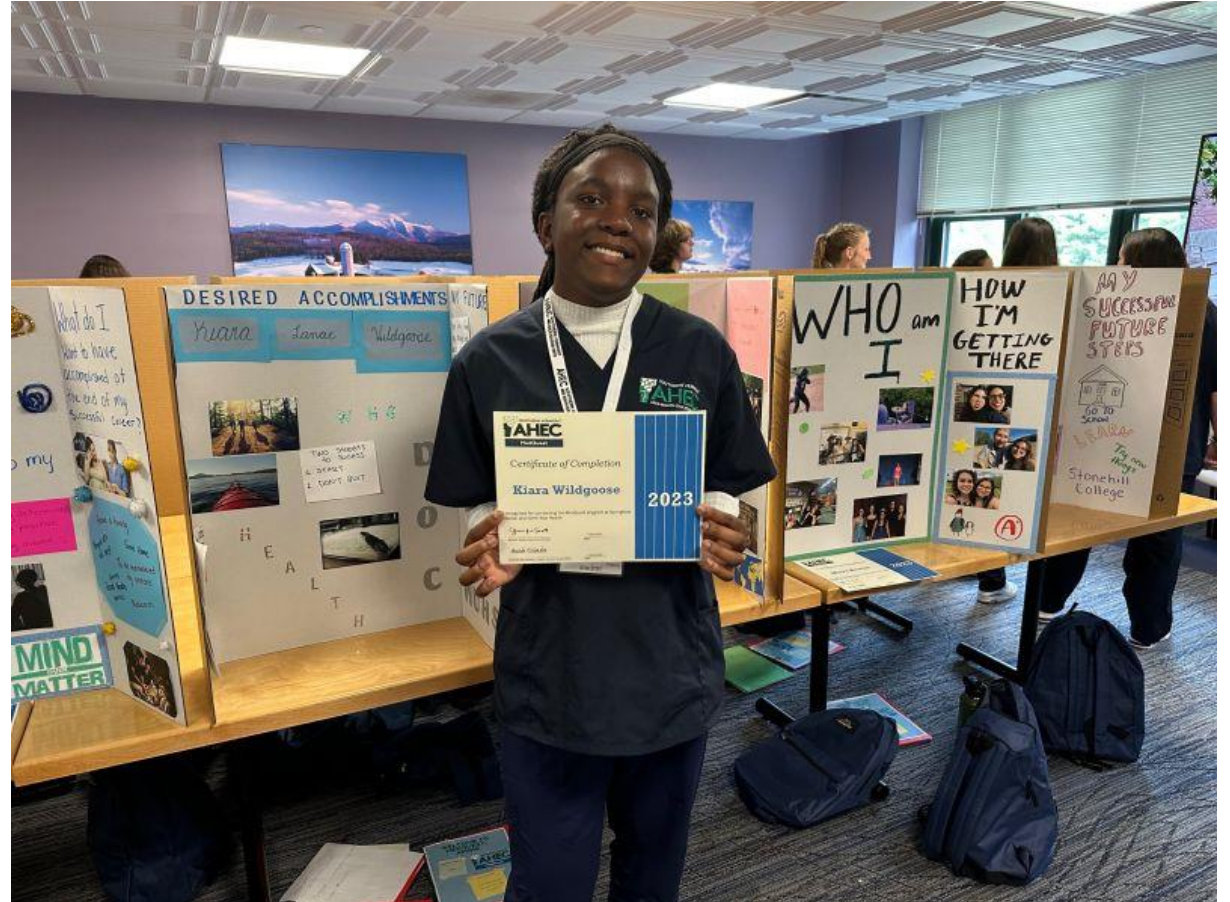
and Communities to Better Health



[nationalahec.org](http://nationalahec.org)

# AHEC Programming

- Pipeline Programs
- Clinical Rotations
- Continuing Education
- AHEC Scholars



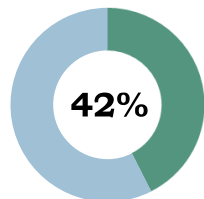
[nationalahec.org](https://nationalahec.org)



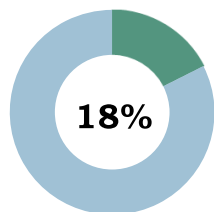
# Pipeline Programs

*Pipeline programs* expose students to health careers and develop intent to pursue post-secondary education in primary healthcare professions.

248,361 health career participants

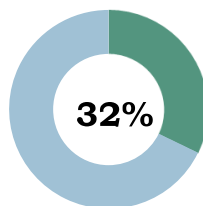


*from disadvantaged backgrounds*



*underrepresented minorities*

*from rural backgrounds*

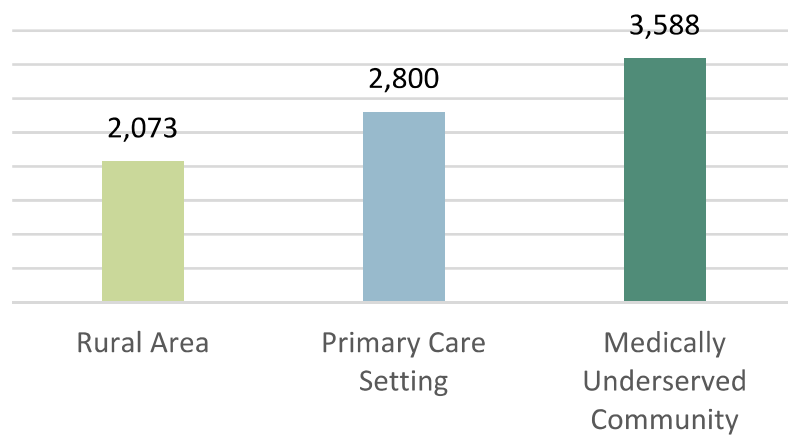


# Clinical rotations

*Clinical training* improves readiness, willingness, and ability of health professions trainees to serve in primary care, rural, and underserved community settings.

Facilitated **25,385** rotations

Clinical Training Sites by Location



# Continuing Education

## 377,184

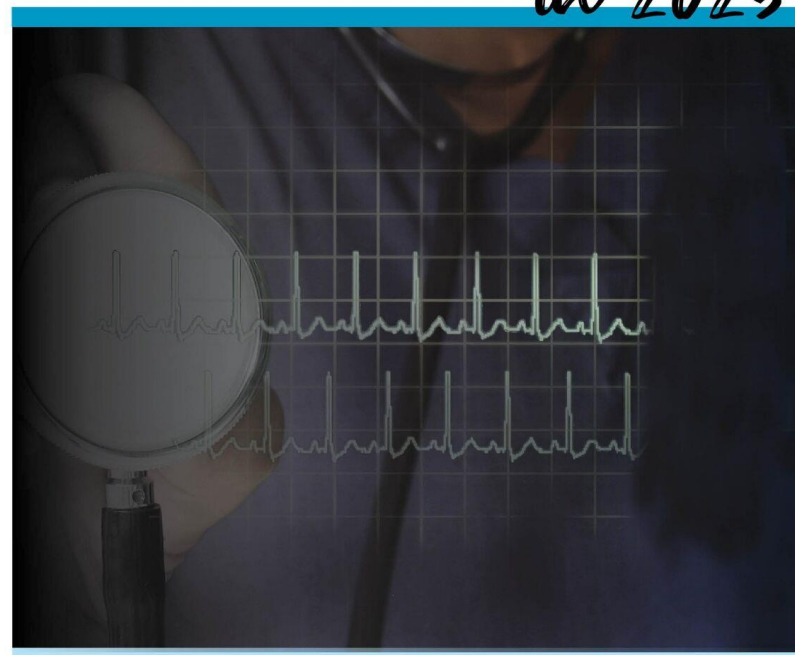
Continuing Education participants



32nd Annual

AHEC Summer Conference

*Working in Healthcare*  
*in 2023*



August 25, 2023  
London Community Center  
London, Kentucky



[nationalahec.org](https://nationalahec.org)



# AHEC Scholars

- 80 hours of supplemental education
- Multi-disciplinary
- *Concurrent program*
- 8 core topic areas



# AHEC Scholars



JENNA GOINS

*Occupational Spanish for  
the Physician's Office*



CHRISTIANE OLIVEIRA

*Sensory Stimuli Adaptation to Improve the  
Efficiency of Oral Hygiene Treatment in Autistic  
Children*



ANGEL BRADLEY

*The Effects of Tobacco Use on  
African American Women and the  
Importance of Screenings*



ANDRÉ JOHNSON

*Occupational Therapy 101: Occupational Therapists &  
Occupational Therapy Assistants Living Life to the Fullest*



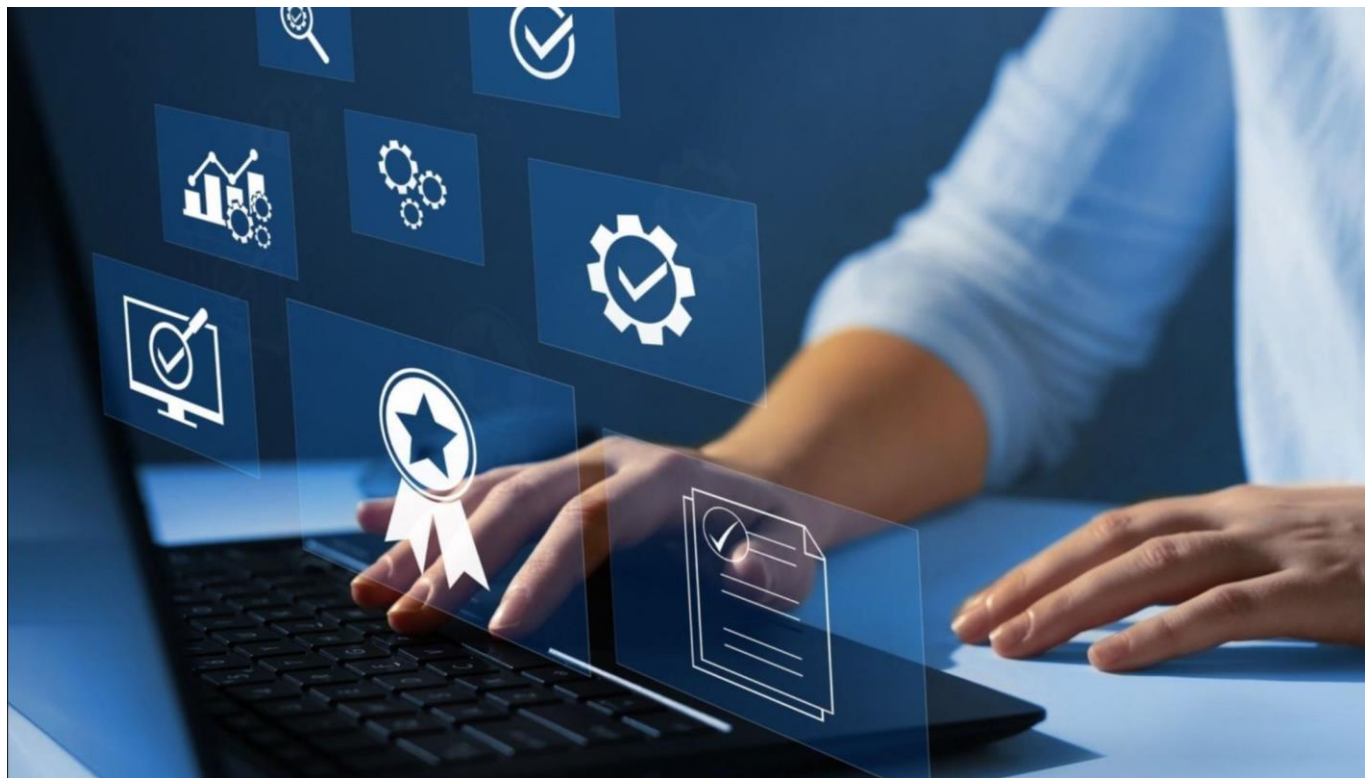
ELENA PATESTOS

*A Sigh of Relief: Addressing Accessibility of  
COPD Therapy for Patients Without Insurance*



[nationalahec.org](http://nationalahec.org)

# AHEC Scholars



## Digital badges

- Links to description of AHEC Scholar program
- Email Signatures
- Resumes
- Social media profiles



# Digital badges



**AHEC**  
SCHOLARS

500+ Scholars have activated badges



**Alisha Woodside** • 3rd+  
OTD | Charlotte AHEC Scholar alum  
21m • 🌐

I'm happy to share that I've obtained a new certification: AHEC Scholar from [National AHEC Organization](#)! The two years in this program have been very beneficial. As a dedicated lifelong learner, the extra experience in behavioral health integration, knowledge of the social drivers of health, interdisciplinary practice, and much more will serve me well in my practice area of choice.  
[#health](#) [#NCAHEC](#) [#AHEC](#)



Celebrating a New Certification



[nationalahec.org](https://nationalahec.org)



# 3RNET/NAO Partnership



- Scholars signing up for digital badge can create a 3RNET profile
- AHEC Scholars definition appears on website
- 38 have created 3RNET profiles



# Partnership



FOR PROFESSIONALS FOR EMPLOYERS

## AHEC Scholars

The [National AHEC Organization \(NAO\)](#) offers students in health professions training programs a two-year curriculum in addition to their health professions program. Upon completion of this program, students are granted the AHEC Scholar designation.

AHEC Scholars are likely to be more well-rounded and knowledgeable than their peers, distinguishing themselves with a perspective born of the study of vital aspects of patient care which may not be covered in traditional programs of study.

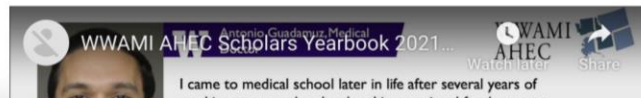
AHEC Scholars include students who may be particularly motivated to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills that are critical to working in underserved communities.

Applicable majors for AHEC Scholars include physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, dentists, psychologists, pharmacists, optometrists, community health workers, public health and allied health professionals, or other health professionals, as practicable.

### AHEC Scholars Core Topics

Educational and training activities will support the following eight (8) Core Topics:

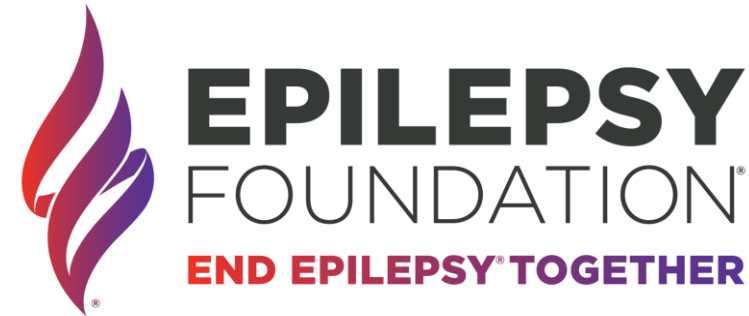
- Interprofessional Education (also known as interdisciplinary training)
- Behavioral Health Integration
- Connecting Communities and Supporting Health Professionals
- Virtual Learning and Telehealth
- Social Determinants of Health
- Cultural Competency
- Practice Transformation
- Current and emerging health issues



[nationalahec.org](https://nationalahec.org)

# National Training Center

AMERICAN COLLEGE  
of RHEUMATOLOGY  
*Empowering Rheumatology Professionals*



**LUPUS**™  
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA



[nationalahec.org](http://nationalahec.org)



NAO 2023

# Thank you!

Dwain Harris, CEO  
National AHEC Organization  
[dwharris@nationalahec.org](mailto:dwharris@nationalahec.org)  
606-875-7158



[nationalahec.org](https://nationalahec.org)