MISSION

The mission of the Indiana Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Network is to improve health by recruiting, educating and retaining health care professionals in underserved communities.

GOALS

The Indiana AHEC Network has four main goals:

Health Careers Promotion, Preparation, and Diversity Pipeline
To increase the representation of individuals from underrepresented minority, disadvantaged, and rural backgrounds willing and able to pursue a health professions career.

Community-Based Student Education and Clinical Training
To utilize hands-on experiences to improve practicing health professions students’ skills and competencies needed to enhance the quality of health care and provide transformative team-based care delivery within rural and underserved areas and populations.

Indiana AHEC Scholars Program
To utilize a comprehensive, community-based education approach to improve the skills and competencies health professions students need to enhance the quality of health care and provide transformative team-based care delivery within rural and underserved areas and populations.

Professional Education Support and Continuing Education
To improve practicing health professionals’ skills and competencies necessary to enhance health care quality and provide transformative team-based health care delivery to rural and underserved areas and populations.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

FAMILY MEDICINE

Indiana AHEC Network is a proud member of Indiana University School of Medicine, and collaborates with partners across the state.
**Pipeline Programs**

Expose students from underrepresented minority, disadvantaged, and rural backgrounds to health careers in order to develop and foster intent to pursue a career in healthcare.

- 3,952 students participated in pipeline programs
- 57% of participants were from a disadvantaged background
- 24% of participants were underrepresented minorities
- 67% of participants were from a rural area
- 67% of participants intend to pursue a health career

**Clinical Training**

Utilizes hands-on experience to improve readiness, willingness, and ability of health professions trainees to serve in rural and medically underserved communities.

- Identified an increase in knowledge of collaborative care
- 84%
- Identified an increase in skills needed to practice in rural and MUC settings
- 97%
- Identified an intent to serve in primary care, rural and/or MUC
- 91%

**AHEC Scholars**

Improves the skills and competencies necessary for health professions students to enhance the quality of healthcare and provide transformative team-based care delivery within rural and underserved areas and populations.

- 2019-2021 Cohort Scholars: 100
- Identified an increase in knowledge of collaborative care: 84%
- Identified an increase in skills needed to practice in rural and MUC settings: 97%
- Identified an intent to serve in primary care, rural and/or MUC: 91%
CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

provide health professionals in rural and underserved areas with resources and programming to improve skills and competencies to enhance the quality of healthcare delivery.

92% of participants plan to implement a practice improvement as a result of their experience

791 continuing education participants

RETAIN THEM

We have located former AHEC students now working as licensed health professionals in Indiana.

31% are working in a HPSA!*

101 Advanced Practice Nurses
3 Chiropractors
21 Clinical Social Workers
221 Dental Hygienists
57 Dentists
11 Dietitians

276 Licensed Practical Nurses
99 Mental Health Professionals
52 Occupational Therapists
94 Pharmacists
32 Physical Therapists

1,456 Physicians
124 Physician Assistants
13 Psychologists

3,996 Registered Nurses
7 Speech Therapists

6,563 alumni are now practicing health professionals!

*Health Professional Shortage Area
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Award Breakdown  
$3,592,590

- Local 6%
- Federal 33%
- State 61%

Disbursement  
$3,592,590

- Network 22%
- Regional Centers 78%

Important: If interested in expenditure summary, this information is available through the Indiana AHEC Network Office after January 1, 2021

This project was supported in part by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number U77HP23068 Area Health Education Centers Point of Service Maintenance and Enhancement for a total of $1,182,975. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.
ANDERSON UNIVERSITY
Sarah Drake  Bachelor of Science in Nursing

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
Shantel Gaillard  Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology
Jonathan Isbill  Master of Arts in Nutrition Science
Sydney Mann  Bachelor of Science in Psychology
Meredith Pizco  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Megan Roseberry  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Christina Spech  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Emily Strawmyer  Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology
Spencer Tonmer  Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training
Alysan Wittmer  Bachelor of Science in Nursing

BUTLER UNIVERSITY
Rachel Metz  Master of Physician Assistant Studies
Joshua Murdock  Doctor of Pharmacy
Xiaoyu Xu  Master of Physician Assistant Studies

CAMPBELLSVILLE UNIVERSITY
Turkesha Poindexter-Mosby  Master of Social Work

HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY
Rebekah Rose  Bachelor of Social Work

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Linda Long  Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Sara Farmer  Master of Social Work
Sarah McAlister  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Jordyn McCray  Master of Public Health
Ekta Pandey  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Arissa Ruano  Master of Public Health

INDIANA UNIVERSITY EAST
Meghan Brandon  Bachelor of Science in Nursing

INDIANA UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE
Teagan Bowie  Bachelor of Science in Nursing

INDIANA UNIVERSITY KOKOMO
Kyla Schroder  Bachelor of Science in Nursing

INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST
Rachel Borkowski  Master of Science in Nursing
Bethany Rochefort  Bachelor of Science in Nursing

INDIANA UNIVERSITY PURDUE UNIVERSITY COLUMBUS
Heather Mathis  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Rachel Moore  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Gracie O’Neill  Bachelor of Science in Nursing

INDIANA UNIVERSITY PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS
Mariah Kirksey  Master of Public Health

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
Molly Dwenger  Doctor of Dental Surgery

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Cynthia Abam  Doctor of Medicine
Christopher Burns  Doctor of Medicine
Amanda Hornbach  Doctor of Medicine
Janelle McNeil-Masuka  Doctor of Medicine
Kathryn Snyder  Doctor of Medicine
Aaron Zelikovich  Doctor of Medicine

INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
Sean Critzman  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Robbin Crabtree-Morgan  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Kyla Spell  Bachelor of Science in Nursing

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Melania Mania Massoud  Associate of Science in Nursing
Teia Hackley  Associate of Science in Nursing

KING’S DAUGHTERS’ HEALTH
Taylor Goodall  Radiologic Technologist

MARIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
Austin Boos  Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
Dilan Farmer  Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
Audrey Martin  Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
Garrett Muhlstand  Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
Hinduja Nallamala  Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
Kelsey Quin  Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
Karan Sharma  Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
Aaron Zell  Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Kevin Fekete  Doctor of Pharmacy
Adejona Gunn  Certified Nursing Assistant
Mackenzie Harris  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Maggie Kline  Doctor of Pharmacy
Caroline Wartman  Doctor of Pharmacy

PURDUE UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST
Megan Dexter  Master of Science in Nursing
Cheryl May  Master of Science in Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE
Samantha Mackey  Doctor of Physical Therapy

UNIVERSITY OF INDIANAPOLIS
Karishma Davis  Bachelor of Science in Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
Viola Donahue  Master of Health Administration
Jahmel Fowler  Master of Health Administration
Chris Shelton  Master of Health Administration
Hollie Woods  Master of Health Administration
Indian AHEC Scholars is a two-year program designed to improve a health professions student’s practice readiness skills. The curriculum focuses on six core topic areas: interprofessional education, social determinants of health, cultural competency, behavioral health integration, practice transformation and emerging health issues. The following are highlights from the Indiana AHEC Scholars program:

“\textit{AHEC gave me the opportunity to attend multi-disciplinary conferences and meetings around the state that focused on different issues and vulnerable populations. It opened my eyes to many gaps in the healthcare system, while allowing me to work through these gaps and create solutions with students from different majors, careers and stages of life.}”

Megan Dexter, Purdue University Northwest, Family Nurse Practitioner, NWI AHEC 2020 Cohort

“AHEC Scholars enhanced what I was learning in classes and allowed me to work with other healthcare related majors. I \textit{had the opportunity to learn about important community health issues and actually implement a project to help better a county in Indiana. If you want the opportunity to learn, grow, and make a difference, I would definitely recommend joining the fellowship!}”

Christina Spech, Ball State University, Nursing, NEI AHEC 2020 Cohort

“The Scholars program helped me to gain communication skills and confidence when working with an interdisciplinary team. Through this program, I developed a passion for working with vulnerable patient populations and hope to dedicate my work to it in the future. This program provides you with a skillset that you don’t always get in school!”

Carolanne Wartman, Purdue University, Pharmacy, NCI AHEC 2020 Cohort

If you want the opportunity to learn, grow, and make a difference, I would definitely recommend joining the fellowship!”

Interested in learning more about and applying to be an Indiana AHEC Scholar? Scan the QR code or go to indianaahec.org/scholars
Despite the abrupt end to the majority of our in-person programming in spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was an exciting and busy year for East Indiana (EI) AHEC.

Again this year, high school students in Decatur, Franklin, and Ripley counties participated in job shadowing, college prep, and health careers exploration activities at Decatur County Memorial Hospital in Greensburg and Margaret Mary Health in Batesville. We helped Health Science students at career centers in our region participate in HOSA – Future Health Professionals program, state and national events, and learning activities in their home communities.

We supported college students from a variety of clinical programs, from nursing to physician assistant and from medicine to mental health counseling, as they completed clinicals and service learning in our region. Highlights included funding Indiana University- Purdue University Columbus seniors completing their Bachelor of Science in Nursing to implement community health projects and helping counseling, medicine, and physician assistant students complete training rotations in rural locations.

Our cohort of graduating Indiana AHEC Scholars completed their capstone projects on food insecurity in school-aged children, nutrition education for residents with diabetes, and interprofessional approaches to addiction prevention.

Finally, we supported a variety of continuing education projects for working professionals. An area of emphasis included multiple efforts to assist rural hospitals in training to meet pediatric patient needs.

As the year wrapped up we were able to support virtual health careers programming for high school students and assist in securing telehealth resources and training for health care professionals among other COVID-19 response activities.

The Metropolitan Indianapolis Central Indiana (MICI) AHEC had an interesting, yet active year. Throughout the swift changes that took place due to COVID-19, our coordinators still managed to provide good quality programming and support to those we serve. Serving Central Indiana and the surrounding counties is our number one goal. This year we had 12 Indiana AHEC Scholars participating in our 2-year program and had 10 program completers!

Though COVID-19 impacted some of our camps, we still offered our Sports Camp (grades 6-8) and Health Careers Camp (grades 9-12). Both camps were offered free of charge and were held virtually. We partnered with six University of Indianapolis departments for new workshops to enhance student experiences! We also offered CPR certification, shadowing opportunities, health professions panels, continuing education credits and conferences. Our participants are from a diverse pipeline of qualified individuals interested in pursuing a health career through proper preparation, health promotion, and community-based education programs.

In addition to holding the federal AHEC grant, the MICI AHEC holds another federally funded program: Health Careers Opportunity Pipeline (HCOP) program. This past year, HCOP programs served nine adult learners, 73 high school students, and 19 undergraduate students in our dedicated, structured programs that provide skills and knowledge to further enhance the abilities of the participants to pursue a career in health care. We connected students with the Center of Science and Industry for hands-on science experiments. We served 10 Marion County residents through our Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program that afforded these individuals the opportunity to obtain credentials to be a CNA. This summer we provided students with an “Interview Tips” video to help them hone their skills and feel better prepared for interviews.
Despite many challenges, we have enjoyed positive changes and a good deal of success in recent months. Our Program Coordinator, Emerald Blankenship, has proven herself to be a valuable member of the North Central Indiana (NCI) AHEC team. She is a Saint Mary’s College graduate and calls Winamac home. Also shiny and new to NCI AHEC, is our updated logo and website.

Clinical placements remain a huge part of what we do well. We recruited 45 Family Medicine clerkship placements – our best year to date! We are proud to say we hosted two medical residents at Logansport Memorial Hospital. We continue to recruit specialty physician preceptors for Marian University.

Our Indiana AHEC Scholars continue to be a point of pride. During the 2019-2020 year, NCI AHEC graduated its first cohort of 16 students. One group within this cohort placed third overall in a statewide competition. In our 2021 cohort, 20 students matriculated into year 2 of the program and are set to complete new projects this year.

The Mental Health Summit is NCI AHEC’s largest annual continuing education event. Partners include Indiana University School of Medicine- West Lafayette (IUSM-WL), Mental Health America Wabash Valley Region, Purdue College of Pharmacy, Purdue School of Nursing, and the Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine. This year’s theme was resilience, bringing sessions from presenters of wide-ranging backgrounds and expertise. Planning for future events includes the development of MARCH (Minority Access to Researching Careers in Healthcare), a program developed in partnership with IUSM-WL and Healthy Communities of Clinton County. The program will incorporate middle school, high school, and clinical program learners.

The Northeast Indiana (NEI) AHEC, operating within the College of Health at Ball State University, partnered with stakeholders throughout our 17-county region. We sought new partners and strengthened existing relationships to support education and improve access to health care.

Our health careers pipeline programs impacted students throughout the region. NEI AHEC conducted health career education activities from our Club MEDIC (Medical Education and Discovery: Inspiring Careers) program, supported virtual attendance at the Indiana HOSA – Future Health Professionals State Leadership Conference, provided funding for student-driven community health projects, and mentored students from underserved backgrounds. In addition, we adapted many of our classroom-based activities for use in virtual environments to help meet the educational needs of students during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The COVID-19 pandemic provided many challenges and opportunities to re-examine how NEI AHEC supports health professions students. We partnered with the University of Saint Francis, Indiana Wesleyan University, and Ball State University to provide student access to virtual clinical experiences, simulation software, and telehealth experiences.

Our first cohort of Indiana AHEC Scholars students demonstrated their knowledge of community health issues by completing their capstone projects. These community-based projects addressed issues including tobacco cessation, sickle cell disease, diabetes screening and prevention, and autism spectrum disorders.

In addition to contributing to student education, NEI AHEC was able to partner with Adams Memorial Hospital to facilitate continuing education for health professionals. Not only did NEI AHEC provide access to curricular materials for nurse educators, but we were also instrumental in training sessions related to team-based intubation of COVID-19 affected patients.
REGIONAL CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

The Northwest Indiana (NWI) AHEC continued to provide successful health professions training programs to students and professionals in spite of the uncertainty faced in the 2019-2020 program year. Even with cancelled programs, NWI AHEC provided 12 programs, engaging over 400 pipeline students with the help of amazing community partners. We also reached almost 200 health professions students from colleges and universities in the region and hosted five continuing education events reaching almost 200 healthcare professionals. In total, NWI AHEC has provided almost 800 individuals with some caliber of healthcare programming. Along with hosting programs, NWI AHEC joined forces with inHealth Integrated Care to provide funding for 3D printed masks and face shield components free of charge to healthcare providers in our region.

One of NWI AHEC’s biggest initiatives, in conjunction with inHealth Integrated Care, was the creation of a free online-based five-part video series on the opioid epidemic in Northwest Indiana. In these videos, participants hear from social workers, counselors, law enforcement, first responders, and recovering addicts who give their first-hand experiences of dealing with the opioid epidemic plaguing our region. These videos explore the current state of the crisis, signs and symptoms of addiction as well as treatment and recovery options. The video series was marketed to all healthcare providers in hospitals and clinics, law enforcement agencies, faculty and students in colleges/universities, and K-12 teachers. To date, almost 100 professionals and college students have completed the video series which will remain available online (available at indianahealth.care/online-training) until 2021.

Prior to COVID-19, collaboration with schools, healthcare facilities, community organizations and regional leaders allowed us to positively impact regional health. The second cohort of Indiana AHEC Scholars launched; SWI AHEC

The 2019-2020 project year certainly highlighted how critical collaboration is to the impact of Northwest Indiana (SWI) AHEC. Collaboration looked very different in the first two-thirds of the year, prior to COVID-19, than it did in the final four months.

Prior to COVID-19, collaboration with schools, healthcare facilities, community organizations and regional leaders allowed us to positively impact regional health. The second cohort of Indiana AHEC Scholars launched; SWI AHEC continued providing education on inclusion and cultural competency; rural providers participated in professional development workshops and trainings on pharmacology and telehealth; and nearly 50 professionals attended the expanded Military and First Responders Mental Health Summit, which offered national expertise for professionals working as, and with, these vulnerable populations.

Family medicine clinical experiences in rural and underserved communities for medical, physician assistant, and nurse practitioner students were coordinated for nearly 20 students. SWI AHEC also continued to train sexual assault nurse examiners across Indiana, reaching over 220 unduplicated nurses in two project years. Additionally, we worked with University of Southern Indiana to launch a new grant-funded Nurse Practitioner (NP) Residency program which provides additional training to new NPs with a focus on rural and underserved populations.

After the onset of COVID-19, collaboration continued, but with a new focus. In response to nearly all programming being postponed or cancelled, SWI AHEC pivoted to support regional healthcare and educational partners with the expansion of telehealth services and the transition to online, virtual learning. We also engaged in community initiatives addressing COVID-19 challenges.
In the fall of 2019, South Central Indiana (SCI) AHEC Scholars started their second year of the program. An orientation session kicked off the year with each enrolled student in attendance. The Scholars got acquainted with each other, formed working groups for the capstone projects, and had the opportunity to hear from several health professionals throughout the region about their experiences working in rural areas and as part of an interprofessional team.

The Scholars worked diligently throughout their first semester to complete assignments and community experiences. Each capstone group picked a county and began to conduct research to discover gaps in services. From there, the Scholars developed capstone projects to address these gaps and to improve the health of the community.

In March of 2020, COVID-19 cases began to increase substantially in Indiana causing in-person experiences and meetings to halt for the Scholars. However, this did not deter them from accomplishing their requirements. They made the best of the situation by leveraging virtual methods to continue their learning. All of our Scholars successfully finished the year despite the challenges and barriers they faced and had to overcome, not only in the program, but in their studies and personal lives. We are extremely proud of the dedication and perseverance demonstrated by each of our Scholars during these trying times.

Our Scholars Lead, Ashley Gilstrap, runs the Scholars orientation session at Hoosier Uplands Economic Development Corporation.

West Central Indiana (WCI) AHEC, in partnership with Ivy Tech Community College Terre Haute, hosted nearly 250 local high school students in February for the healthcare competition: Healthcare Clash on the Wabash. Students competed in their choice of 11 events that tested their demonstration of health-related skills and knowledge of specific health topics. The regional event is offered to help students prepare for the statewide HOSA – Future Health Professionals competition, held in Indianapolis each spring. At the state conference, student prizes include college scholarships and opportunities to move on to a nationwide competition.

Students who competed are enrolled in Career & Technical Education and local health career programs, and most plan to pursue a healthcare career after high school graduation. The event also allowed them to become familiar with the Ivy Tech campus and the training programs offered there.

“Most of the participants came from rural communities, which have an increasing need for skilled healthcare workers. Through programs like this, WCI AHEC hopes to further empower them to continue their path to a health career and eventually return to their hometowns to serve,” said Jackie Mathis, WCI AHEC director.

Seventy volunteers, including faculty and staff from Ivy Tech and surrounding community members contributed to the event, as well, acting as judges, simulated victims, and other logistical help.
INDIANA AHEC NETWORK ADVISORY BOARDS

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Tracy Dwenger
Cahill Health Solutions
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Rob Moorhead
Dean Jack
Gina Bailey
Kathy Olen
Bryan Robbins
Beth Sharer
Tom Talbot
Jennifer Taylor
Judith A. Uhle
Indiana University East, School of Nursing

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Terry Goodwin
Mike Hunter
Mark Kinkel
Christi McBrdige
Alan Taylor
Susan Wynn
Schneck Medical Center

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Kimberly Alsept-Gard
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Japhia Burrell
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Cassie Flock
Donna Grosman
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Abley Becker
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Mary Woll
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Wabash College

WEST CENTRAL
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Caroline Mallory
Kendra Mann
Steve Neeley
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Justin Sturgis
Jill Wil

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Debbie Frye
Samir Ginde
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Kim Harper
Ben Harvey
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Hannah Mawey
Blakey Miley
April O. Newton
Andrea Pleffe
Evan Reinhart
Broderick Rhyant
Calvin Robinson
Sydney Rucker
Lon Sauer
Donald Seifk
Anushitha Shukla
Megan Skala
Mary Ann Sloan
Susan Yo Thomas
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Joni Wise
Jim Zieba

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Ball State University
Indiana University Kokomo
Ball State University
Indiana University Fort Wayne
Indiana University Health Ball Memorial Hospital
Grace College and Theological Seminary
University of Saint Francis
Goshen Community Schools
Indiana AHEC Network

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Jim Layman
Terry Lee
Calvin Roberson
Mee Hae Smith
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Tony Toomer
Deborah Whitfield
Healthy Communities of Clinton County Coalition
Purdue University
Family Health Clinic of Burlington, Delphi, Monon, and Wolcott
Fulton Economic Development Corp.
Ivy Tech Community College
Department of Workforce Development
Indiana University Network Office
Family and Social Services Administration
Community Health Network

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Fulton Economic Development Corp.
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Department of Workforce Development
Indiana University Network Office
Family and Social Services Administration
Community Health Network

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Goshen Community Schools
Indiana AHEC Network

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Indiana University Health Ball Memorial Hospital
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University of Saint Francis
Goshen Community Schools
Indiana AHEC Network

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New Prairie High School
Purdue University Northwest
Health Sciences
Health Sciences
Integrated Care – Bloomington
Valparaiso University
Indiana University Northwest
Purdue University Northwest
Indiana University Northwest
Hammond Area Career Center
Purdue Extension
Former NWI AHEC Director
NASC/IN Region 1 Representative
CTE Health Science Education

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Purdue University Northwest
Health Sciences
Health Sciences
Integrated Care – Bloomington
Valparaiso University
Indiana University Northwest
Purdue University Northwest
Indiana University Northwest
Hammond Area Career Center
Purdue Extension
Former NWI AHEC Director
NASC/IN Region 1 Representative
CTE Health Science Education

INDIANA AHEC NETWORK ADVISORY BOARDS
Indiana AHEC Network’s Statewide Conference: Seeds of Change will be a **virtual experience**, focusing on enriching the healthcare workforce and your community. The day will consist of educational and interactive sessions, as well as poster presentations showcasing the capstone community projects of the graduating class of AHEC Scholars. We will also pay tribute to AHEC’s many and valued statewide community partners.