The South Piedmont AHEC Scholars Program

Program Overview

The South Piedmont AHEC Scholars Program recruits, trains, and supports a diverse group of students enrolled in health professions programs across an 8-county region (Anson, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Stanly, and Union) in North Carolina. Together, these students create an interdisciplinary team of future health professionals devoted to the transformation of health care in North Carolina. Scholars are composed of a variety of health professions and academic institutions across the South Piedmont AHEC Region. This program is a 2-year commitment consisting of 80 hours of didactic material, as well as 80 hours of clinical observation experience for a total of 160 hours.

Emphasis on Interprofessional Education and Practice

There is increasing recognition that team-based care improves outcomes in many industries, and that much of health professional education must become interprofessional. Our hope is to identify clinics with at least two different disciplines, from both rural and urban sites that exemplify interprofessional and team-based care. We need your help in providing a meaningful clinical observation experience for our Scholars. Activities for Scholars could include: observing, studying cases, and analyzing practice reports and other activities that will provide a rewarding learning experience for Scholars.

Emphasis on Community Based Education

In addition to an emphasis on IPE and practice, there is substantial and increasing evidence that clinical experience in community settings is a key driver of long term career placement. Community based clinical experience is a foundational component of our program. We are looking to select and recruit practices where our Scholars will be able to learn more about the community the practice serves.

Rock Star Clinics

Our intent is to recruit a set of “rock star” practices, committed to caring for the undeserved, providing opportunities for learners underrepresented in health care, and providing high quality care centered on patients. The clinical observation experiences will vary across the program, but our goal is to recruit clinics that are fully committed to its patients and the communities it serves.
Clinical Observation Experience Framework

The Scholars will need to complete 80 hours of clinical observation experience (40 hours each year). These experiences must be done in an interprofessional setting of two or more health care professionals. We will mitigate any work for the clinics who choose to host students by taking care of all potential necessary onboarding processes. Once key clinical staff have been identified, we will be able to coordinate scheduling with our Scholars.

We sincerely hope that you will consider hosting one or more Scholars for a portion of the 40 hours. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We are flexible and open to working around the clinic’s schedule.

South Piedmont AHEC Region Counties

Anson, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Stanly, Union

For more program information or to volunteer your clinic:

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Visit our website at:
www.southpiedmontahec.org/workforce-di/ahec-scholars