

Wisconsin AHEC On Location

SUMMER 2011

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of our AHEC program!

“Wisconsin AHEC: On Location” presents highlights of programs and people who bring teaching and learning to life in communities across the state. Suggestions for future articles are welcome; send your ideas to Keri Robbins, AHEC Communications Coordinator (krobbins@wisc.edu).

- Please let us know you “like” Wisconsin AHEC on Facebook.
- Identify the health department pictured in the masthead above for an “exciting” prize. Send your entry (and U.S. Mail address) to: webmaster@ahec.wisc.edu



In this issue:

- **PROFILE:** Welcome Brenda Gray, PhD, MPH - Milwaukee AHEC Center Director
- **TEACHING:** Wisconsin Express, by Kristen Lucas - Site Coordinator: Stevens Point/Amish
- **CURRICULUM:** Interprofessional Education workgroup - Northeastern WI AHEC
- **Featured Programs:**
 - 1) Farm Disaster Drill - Scenic Rivers AHEC
 - 2) College Camp - Northern Highland AHEC
- **AHEC Announcements**

PROFILE: Brenda Gray, PhD, MPH Center Director, Milwaukee AHEC

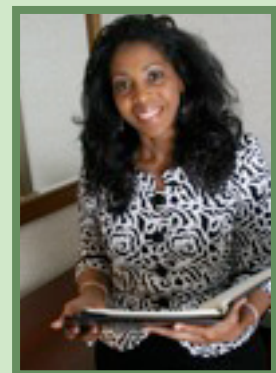
MILWAUKEE - We are delighted that Brenda Gray has accepted our offer to move to Wisconsin and become the Center Director of Milwaukee AHEC. Brenda began her position in July.

“Our interview team was deeply impressed with Brenda’s training and experience in mentoring, coaching, research, board development, working with non-profits and funding,” writes John Brill, MD, MPH, President of the Board of Milwaukee AHEC. “In person, her passion for community health, enthusiasm, ability to make a presentation, quick grasp of complex dynamics and ease at making connections shone through.”

Brenda received her PhD from Jackson State University’s College of Education and Human Development, where she completed her dissertation on “Health Value, Self Efficacy, Health Locus of Control: Cognitive Perceptual Factors Influencing Health Promoting Behavior in Minority College Students.” She also holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Alabama.

John adds: “On behalf of the Board of Directors, I also wish to thank Suzanne Letellier for her excellent work as interim director, and all of the AHEC staff for keeping on our mission during this transition.”

Read more about Brenda in her one-page professional profile:
http://www.ahec.wisc.edu/milw/BrendaGray_profile.pdf



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TEACHING:

Wisconsin Express 2011: Amish/Mennonite site—Stevens Point Summary by Kristen Lucas, Site Coordinator

STEVES POINT - North Central AHEC welcomed six students to participate in this year's Wisconsin Express, representing a variety of educational backgrounds including Nutrition, Family Nurse Practitioner, Health Education, Nursing, Biomedical Science and Pre-Med. The focus of the 2011 program was the Amish/Mennonite population. Based in Plover, Wisconsin, the students began their experience on Sunday, May 22 with a group dinner followed by an evening of ice-breaking activities. Much to the surprise of the group, the session was interrupted by a tornado passing just to the south of the Plover area. As the students watched the funnel cloud pass by, large hail wreaked havoc on the cars in the parking lot – bringing a whole new meaning to “ice-breaking” activities.

Sunny skies greeted the students the following morning. The day began with a webinar which chronicled the history of the Amish people and offered insight into Amish/Mennonite life, community, faith and culture. This webinar was a collaborative effort between NC-AHEC and Deborah Morse Kahn. Ms. Morse-Kahn is a public historian and specialist in American ethnic and religious communities with a particular interest in the Amish and Mennonite population. North Central AHEC Center Director Suzanne Matthew, PhD, facilitated the day's events, which included a live question and answer session with Ms. Morse-Kahn.



After receiving this in-depth lesson about Amish life and culture, the students were ready to visit some Amish/Mennonite communities. On Tuesday, the students traveled to the Clark County Department of Public Health where they met with Brittany Boyer, R.N., who works extensively with the Amish/Mennonite communities. Ms. Boyer shared stories of her many experiences with the Amish. The group then visited the home of a midwife, Teresa Radovich, who specializes in delivering mostly Amish/Mennonite babies.

One of the highlights of the week occurred when the group was greeted by the cries of a newborn baby upon entering the home of the midwife. Much to the delight of the group, all students were given a chance to hold the minutes-old baby. The parents then joined the group and allowed the students to take pictures of their daughter. Within two hours of giving birth, the new family was on their way home. By far, this was one of the most memorable events of the week.

The students ventured on to Unity, Wisconsin, to meet with Dr. Troy Schrock, the owner of the Country Health Clinic. Dr. Schrock is a Mennonite physician who treats Amish/Mennonite patients. Dr. Schrock accepts only self-paying patients and aims to cut costs by employing a smaller staff and operating a smaller facility. With his clinic housed in a former bank building, Dr. Schrock provides affordable healthcare to his patients by helping them to understand the balance between the cost of medical care and the reduction of risk. In other words, the higher the risk patients are willing to take, the lower their healthcare costs tend to be (as a result of fewer tests, etc.). As the session with Dr. Schrock came to a close, he suggested the students visit a natural-foods store in the Unity area and directed us to Nurtisource. At the store, the students were introduced to some homeopathic remedies used by many Amish and Mennonite families.

On Wednesday, the students traveled to the Marshfield Clinic where they enjoyed an extensive tour of the lab. They met with various members of the Marshfield staff including the Lab Operations Manager, a Molecular Epidemiologist and a Cytologist. Later in the day, Dr. Steve Kirkhorn met with the students to discuss rural Amish/Mennonite healthcare.

The week's formal program ended on Thursday, allowing the participants time to tour some of the Amish/Mennonite areas in Taylor County and to spend time shopping and sight-seeing. A walking tour of Athens and visits to several greenhouses, bakeries and stores helped to provide some direct interaction between the Amish/Mennonite people and the Wisconsin Express students.

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Observations about Interprofessional Education

As site coordinator of the NC-AHEC Wisconsin Express, I felt very fortunate to be part of such a worthwhile project.

As the week began, I observed the students getting to know one another personally as well as professionally. Sharing the common bond of being (or studying to be) healthcare professionals served as a basis for many of their conversations. The students were at various points in their health-related careers: one student was a practicing R.N. and training to become a Nurse Practitioner. Another was in the process of completing an internship in Nutrition. A third student recently completed her degree and will begin graduate school in Health Education in the fall. The remaining members of the group were in the process of working on their undergraduate degrees. The different backgrounds from which the students arrived helped to form a unique group dynamic. Because some students were more advanced in their healthcare careers, they were able to share valuable information with the others regarding scheduling of classes, employability skills, and how to complete their resumes most effectively. The sum of their parts made the students a very knowledgeable group overall.

As the week progressed, the group often reflected on how valuable the webinar was in terms of arming them with the knowledge needed to interact respectfully with a culture they knew very little about. It established a

solid foundation for the week's activities. Students often referred to things discussed in the webinar as we drove through the Amish communities and to our various destinations. At times it seemed as though the van became a classroom on wheels because of the discussions that took place during our driving time. As we drove, students used the time together to point out various Amish sites (schoolhouses, homes, etc.), making the journey as important to their learning as the destination. It also gave students ample time to discuss their various disciplines, experiences and future healthcare goals. Most days, on the drive back to the hotel, the time in the van was dedicated to reflection on the day's events. Reflection became an integral part of each day, individually as well as collectively.

By week's end, it was evident that the students had successfully managed to establish relationships with one another that will last for a long time to come. The teamwork and interprofessional collaboration they exhibited throughout the week will surely be useful to each and every one of them in their healthcare careers. It was rewarding to witness the evolution of the students' knowledge of the Amish/Mennonite population – from knowing very little to arriving at a place of understanding about a culture that is ordinarily closed. Having the opportunity to observe the students collaborate, compromise, teach, learn and support one another was a great indicator to me that the objectives of Wisconsin Express were met. As a result, I believe the students will be able to incorporate all that they've gained through their participation in Wisconsin Express throughout their healthcare careers.

Comments from the student participants...

- "After learning about the Amish and Mennonite population, I have more respect for a culture I knew little about. After this experience, I am definitely considering a career in a rural area."
- "I enjoyed touring the labs at the Marshfield Clinic. I am interested in a lab setting and to actually be able to see it in action was a great experience for me."
- "I've never worked with rural populations before. This was a great way to learn about this entire culture and the subset of Amish/Mennonite."
- "This experience will help me in my primary care practice, especially with the Amish/Mennonite culture. I enjoy working with underserved populations and rural health and Amish is a culture that I did not know about in regards to health or patient care."
- "Wisconsin Express showed me that variation can and does exist in all cultures. It was a great way to feel out another culture, especially a closed culture, in which immersion can be difficult."
- "Wisconsin Express definitely influenced my understanding of a culture I knew very little about. I feel I gained so much useful knowledge."



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CURRICULUM: Educators launch initiatives to promote Interprofessional (IP) Education in Northeastern Wisconsin AHEC Region

MANITOWOC - Northeastern WI AHEC has convened a work group of academic partners to develop more interprofessional (IP) student training opportunities in the region. Group members represent the region's schools and colleges, including: Bellin College, UW-Green Bay, UW-Oshkosh, Lakeshore Technical College, Moraine Park Technical College, Fox Valley Technical College, Marian University, and Concordia University.

IP education is defined by the Center for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education (CAIPE): "Interprofessional Education occurs when two or more professions learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care." The IP work group is addressing the need for students to develop stronger interdisciplinary teamwork skills, which will enhance students' preparation for their roles after graduation when they will work with many other types of professionals. While in school, students rarely have opportunities to practice with students from different degree programs; this IP workgroup is looking at ways to help academic programs incorporate IP opportunities into their curriculum.

Three key projects that the group plans to implement this year are:

- 1) a survey of academic and health care partners regarding attitudes and opinions regarding IP education and teamwork;
- 2) an IP workshop for faculty from all health professions, in October;
- 3) an IP experience for students, in January.

If you are interested in more information about this project or other initiatives in this region, please contact **Marty Schaller (martys@newahec.org) - Center Director of Northeastern Wisconsin AHEC.**



FEATURED PROGRAM: Farm Disaster Drill A "Friday the 13th" scenario trains WARM students along with local emergency personnel in rural trauma care

LA CROSSE - With support from Scenic Rivers AHEC, medical students from the WARM (WI Academy for Rural Medicine) program stationed at Gundersen Lutheran experienced first-hand a simulated farm disaster on Friday, May 13.

"The scope of this day is amazing," writes Martha McCabe, Center Director of the Scenic Rivers AHEC. "I am very pleased with the partnership willingness of SWTC and UWSMPH along with all of the other partners."



The following summary was published in "Bridges," the Gundersen Lutheran newsletter (June 2011):

A farmer is making repairs to the inside of his silo when he slips and falls 30 feet to the bottom, severely injuring himself. That is the scenario that played out recently on the Greco farm in rural Decorah where Gundersen Lutheran, along with emergency personnel from several agencies in Northeast Iowa, participated in a daylong rescue drill. The victim was played by a SimMan 3G simulator from Southwest Technical College in Fennimore, Wisconsin. Emergency personnel had the opportunity to work on rescue techniques to stabilize and remove the victim from a very confined space. The victim was then transported to Winneshiek Medical Center in Decorah before being flown by MedLink AIR to Gundersen Lutheran.

Also participating in the drill were eight medical students from Gundersen Lutheran who are part of the Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM) program.

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“The WARM students, most of whom will be practicing in rural Wisconsin, had an opportunity to see all of the steps that occur with rural trauma patient care, literally from the scene of the accident to a regional hospital to Gundersen Lutheran for trauma care,” explains Kim Lansing, MD, PhD, Gundersen Lutheran Family Medicine and director of WARM for the Western Academic Campus of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.

Dr. Lansing would like to thank all of the agencies who collaborated on this event to make it a success including: Lawrence and Joan Greco for the use of their farm, Scenic Rivers Area Health Education Center for the funds to rent the patient simulator and provide lunch, Winneshiek Medical Center, Gundersen Lutheran Department of Surgery, MedLink AIR, Tri-State Ambulance, the Decorah Fire Department and Southwest Technical College.

FEATURED PROGRAM: College Camp Feeding applesauce to a horse with a syringe... and other ways to interest young students in health careers

Co-hosted by Northern Highland AHEC and Nicolet College

RHINELANDER - Middle school students from local schools, including Three Lakes, Rhinelander, Tomahawk, and Eagle River explored hands-on activities to discover “Who Wants A Health Career” during a week-long College Camp. A second session of the camp - named the Verol Mae Ritchie Camp - welcomed Native American students from Lac du Flambeau.



Gail Nelson, Northern Highland AHEC Project Coordinator, and Jennifer Labs, a nursing instructor for Nicolet College, co-taught the sessions designed for campers with an interest in health professions. The students participated in a variety of fun and educational sessions throughout the week, with a action-filled agenda that included:

- Focus on the respiratory system: discussing the effects of smoking on health; hands-on activity with healthy and diseased pig lungs; an emphysema / straw activity / pulse oximeter exercise; and learning about health care careers related to the respiratory system.
- Focus on organ function and the skeletal system: meeting “Skelly” the skeleton model; exploring a 3D model of a heart; discussion of proper hand washing; donning surgical attire; and learning about health care careers in the surgical department.
- Focus on observation skills: solving a “Who Done It” mystery, DM bingo, and practicing veterinary skills on a miniature pony, viewing images of tympanic membranes, and pairing up to view ear canals with otoscopes, along with learning about additional health careers.
- Special focus on the topic of diabetes.
- An additional session about pharmacy was also a choice for campers.

“My favorite part of the week,” Gail says, “was listening to the students talk excitedly about their dreams and their hopes of working in a health career profession.”

The campers learned quite a bit about health careers, in activities that were both fun and educational.

One of the most popular and memorable activities occurred toward the end of the week, during the veterinary medicine segment, when a special guest visited the campers. The students were delighted to use a syringe to administer a dose of applesauce to the miniature pony brought to visit by Lenore Mangles, Dean of Health Occupations at Nicolet College - and they reported that the pony enjoyed the experience, too.



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AHEC Announcements

STAFF NEWS

We are delighted to have a new Center Director at Milwaukee AHEC! Please join us in welcoming Brenda Gray, PhD, MPH (bgray@milahec.org) to Wisconsin. See Brenda's profile in this newsletter, and online at: http://www.ahec.wisc.edu/milw/BrendaGray_profile.pdf

Wisconsin Express (May 23-27, 2011)

A record number of applicants competed for spaces this year. For a program summary, please see the Wisconsin Express 2011 annual report online at: http://www.ahec.wisc.edu/WiscExpress/AnnualReport_2011.pdf

Community Health Internship Program (CHIP) (June 2-July 29, 2011)

Students completed internships at 45 statewide sites this summer, with an additional 35 students placed at Milwaukee CHIP sites, and an additional 20 environmental interns from UW-Oshkosh. The complete report will be released this fall.

Informed Caring web portal

Remember that AHEC's web portal is continually updated with current health information. Recently, we have added two new categories: "Quality Improvement" and "Immunizations." <http://informedcaring.org>



Facebook Page Launched

This summer, we launched a Facebook Page for the statewide AHEC program. Please visit the page, let us know you "like" it, and refer your public health contacts, including current and prospective health professions students and their families. <http://facebook.com/WisconsinAHEC>

Additional news and updates at:

<http://www.ahec.wisc.edu>



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