Three Rivers Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is a community-driven, non-profit organization and through our vision, mission, values and guiding principles, we assist our communities in building and sustaining the healthcare workforce to meet their healthcare needs. Since 1994, we have served 28 counties in west central Georgia from our headquarters in Columbus, and our efforts place special emphasis on rural and underserved areas. We accomplish our goals through the numerous partnerships and collaborations we have formed over the years which include healthcare providers, health professions students, academic institutions, state and federal agencies, and communities – without them we would not be successful. Each partnership is as unique as each of our program areas: Recruit, Train, and Retain which comprise our Programmatic Model: The Health Professions Pipeline. We place a strong focus on educational activities that foster the “grow your own” approach to increasing the supply, distribution, retention, and education of the healthcare workforce.

Counties Served

Bibb Marion
Butts Meriwether
Carroll Monroe
Chattahoochee Muscogee
Coveta Newton
Crawford Peach
Fayette Pike
Harris Rockdale
Heard Schley
Henry Spalding
Jasper Talbot
Jones Taylor
Lamar Troup
Macon Upson

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Director, Family Medicine Residency Program
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Sr. Deputy of Health Science Chronic Disease Prevention Section
Georgia Department of Public Health

Mark Thorne, MS, RRT
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Columbus Technical College

Tara Underwood, DHA, CHES
Dean of the School of Health Sciences Middle Georgia State University

Cassandra H. Williams, MT/M.Ed.
Healthcare Recruiter Career Placement Center, Navicent Health

“I have never regretted my return to nursing!”
– RN Re-entry Candidate

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LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS can influence the course of a business considerably. It is critical to designate someone who is a visionary, optimistic, and understands the importance of maintaining professional integrity. Since fifteen years tenure, Kathy English announced her retirement as Center Director of Three Rivers AHEC (TRA). Kathy’s management approach displayed the qualities of a proficient director, and through her leadership, the organization achieved great accomplishments. The TRA Board of Directors suggested the implementation of a succession plan to ensure a seamless transition of leadership. The plan supported the selection of an Interim Center Director to train with Kathy through her retirement. April 30, 2019, I accepted the offer of Interim Center Director, with the plan of taking the reins May 1, 2019.

My career with Three Rivers AHEC began in June 2012, as Careers Outreach Coordinator. In June 2015, I transitioned to the next level program as Clinical Training Coordinator, and today, I lead the TRA team as Center Director. Essentially, my plan as Center Director is to continue our focus on exposure, education, training, and retention of health care professionals in Georgia. Applying the knowledge and skills acquired during my AHEC career will greatly complement our efforts. The success of the organization is unachievable without the support of our community partners. Therefore, it is essential that we nurture current relationships and form new associations that will lead to the enhancement of our impact and promote sustainability.

MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR

PREPARING youth and adults for careers in healthcare by expanding their views of the world of health care professionals and inspiring them to pursue the path of becoming healthcare professionals.

FACILITATING community-based clinical training experiences for health professionals who are interested in community service, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses and other healthcare providers with our communities.

SUSTAINING the healthcare workforce through RN re-entry and continuing education programs in collaboration with our community partners.

That will lead to the enhancement of our community partners. Therefore, it is essential that we nurture current relationships and form new associations that will lead to the enhancement of our impact and promote sustainability.

Three Rivers AHEC (TRA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to meet the health care needs of the Three Rivers AHEC Region. The region includes ten counties (Baker, Calhoun, Taylor, Talbot, Thomas, Sumter, Wilkinson, Butts, Lamar, and Dodge) in Central Georgia.

EVALUATION

Continuing Education Training
Goal: 501 Reached: 985

Travel and Housing Supported Rotations
Goal: 287 Reached: 480

Retaining Practitioners in the Community
Goal: 13 RNs Reached: 18 RNs

Three Rivers AHEC Staff
Crystal Hand - Center Director
Yvette Payton - Manager of Retention and Technology
Theresa Williams - Clinical Training Coordinator
Anita Holt - Health Careers and Special Projects Coordinator
Connie Knight - Operations Coordinator

Three Rivers AHEC is an equal opportunity employer.

Three Rivers AHEC
2022 15th Avenue
Columbus, Georgia 31901
706.507.0894
www.threeriversahec.org

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Meeting the need of the health professions education programs. Since 2010, we have coordinated 252 preceptors in 22 counties (13 rural counties). Student disciplines include 440 MD/DO, 74 APRN, 134, and 166 other. We provide student housing in 6 locations for a total of 31 beds. We housed students for 251 rotations and provided travel stipends for 162 rotations - an investment of $146,887.35.

Meeting the Health Care Workforce Needs

Going beyond the typical health careers information websites, Three Rivers AHEC offers high school students with a strong desire to pursue health careers.

Providing continuing education through workshops/conferences and web-based programs.

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