



Urban Service Track AHEC Scholars Program



The Urban Service Track/AHEC Scholars Program nurtures and trains a cadre of students from six health professions schools at UConn and Quinnipiac University's Physician Assistant Program to work in Primary Care urban, underserved communities. Students receive clinical training and enhanced learning opportunities maximizing inter-professional training and exposure, as well as mentoring. As successive cohorts of Urban Health/AHEC Scholars graduate, they will contribute to a statewide integrated network of quality health care for underserved communities.

The UST/AHEC Scholars Program addresses the chronic shortages of health care providers in urban underserved communities. Known as Urban Health/AHEC Scholars, UST/AHEC Scholars Program participants are enrolled in the Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Social Work as well as the Quinnipiac University Physician Assistant Program. Annually, eight to ten slots within the entering classes of each participating health professions school are reserved for students specifically selected for the UST/AHEC Scholars Program, yielding a total of 60 students per cohort.



In addition to the existing basic sciences and clinical curricula, Urban Health/AHEC Scholars receive targeted training over a two year period. Training is focused on cultural and linguistic competency, population health, health policy, advocacy, health care financing and management, leadership, community resources, health care teams, and quality improvement and patient safety.



Interdisciplinary clinical training for Urban Health/AHEC Scholars takes place in federally qualified health centers and other primary care facilities in urban underserved communities. Elective clinical experiences focus on underserved settings such as homeless shelters, senior centers, community health fairs, the CT Mission of Mercy free dental clinic, migrant farm worker clinics and partnerships with area underserved elementary and secondary schools.

The UST/AHEC Scholars Program incorporates many of the features of several longstanding and highly successful rural underserved health professions programs. Scholars are selected by their respective schools based on the applicants' experience and commitment to providing community service, familiarity with urban health issues, and interest in interdisciplinary teaming.

The UST/AHEC Scholars Program builds on the particular strengths of UConn and the Connecticut Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program. The UST/AHEC Scholars Program is housed within the Connecticut AHEC Program Office located at UConn Health in Farmington, Connecticut. The Connecticut AHEC Program was established in 1995 and is one of 46 AHEC programs nationally. **To learn more, contact Dariene DuBois-Plante at dubois@uchc.edu.**