



Greetings,

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am proud to acknowledge that our team has “*Risen Above the Circumstances*”. During this past year, SPCC Atlanta AHEC has *Rebooted, Recharged, and Revitalized*.

We *Rebooted* with the election of new board officers, Francesca Lopez, as *Chair* and Judith Wold as *Secretary*. We also *Rebooted* with a few staff changes, including the promotion of Brandon Pledger to *Health Careers Coordinator*, and the hirings of Shanetria Pierson as *Preceptor Coordinator* and LaRonia Burnett as *Continuing Education Coordinator*. We are excited to *Reboot* our organization with such talented individuals who have expertise and experience in behavioral health, public health, and journalism.

As we *Recharged* our *RECRUIT* efforts, we collaborated with existing and new partners to build on our past successes. We conducted 55 General and Intensive Health Careers Awareness programs that reached 4,122 students. We contributed to the successful launch of the Georgia State Medical Association’s (GSMA) statewide inaugural *Health Careers Academy*, where high school and undergraduate students from across the state received “*Mentoring with a Doctor*” opportunities. In addition, we graduated 10 Georgia AHEC Scholars, and were proud to announce that two Clayton State University faculty members, Dr. Naquilla Thomas and Tamika Baugh-Allen, were certified as Mental Health First Aid Instructors.

In 2023, we also *Recharged* our *TRAIN* efforts. Notably, we supported 279 health professional students, equating to 443 community-based rotations with 81% receiving a housing or travel stipend.

In regard to our *RETAIN* efforts, we were thrilled to secure the “*Best*” and “*AHEC’s Own*”, LeThenia Joy Baker, MD, MT (ASCP), Ob-Gyn at Wellstar Medical System, to speak at the GSMA 2023 Annual Convention. Dr. Baker spoke to physicians and other health professionals on Maternal Health and the looming maternal mortality crisis in Georgia.

This past year, we *Recharged* our *ENGAGE* efforts by having our board members and staff engage with legislators-to inform them on issues affecting AHEC communities. These issues included maternal mortality and the closure of Wellstar/Atlanta Medical Center in November. We are proud of the relationship we developed with Senator Nan Orrock of Georgia Senate District 36, which resulted in health professional students gaining firsthand information on Legislative Advocacy.

As I reflect on 2023, I am thankful for our collaborative partners who helped us expand the healthcare workforce and increase access to care in medically underserved communities. It has been a pleasure to lead a team that is *Revitalized* and continues to show incredible resilience, dedication, and hard work. And, we look forward to 2024, which will be SPCC Atlanta AHEC’s 40th Anniversary and a year of *Transformation*!

Sincerely,

Daphne L. Byrd

Daphne Byrd, MSed
Executive Director



Serving Fulton, DeKalb and Clayton counties with ♥!

Southeastern Primary Care Consortium, Inc., Atlanta Area Health Education Center (SPCC Atlanta AHEC) is a nonprofit, regional health education organization. We are located in Atlanta, Georgia and serve Fulton, DeKalb and Clayton county communities with programs that provide a pipeline to develop healthcare professionals.

SPCC Atlanta AHEC is one of six independent, nonprofit AHEC centers located in Georgia. Established by the Morehouse School of Medicine in 1984, we are a member of the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network and the National AHEC Organization (NAO).

OUR STAFF

Executive Director
Daphne Byrd, MSed

Health Careers Coordinator
Brandon Pledger, BS

Preceptor Coordinator
Shanetria Pierson, MS, MHA

Continuing Education Coordinator
LaRonia J. Burnett, MPH, CHES

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Karen Rawls, PhD
Advanced Clinical Nurse Educator
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and Health Systems

Marcia Watson, ARNP, MSN
Community Representative

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2023 ANNUAL REPORT

RECRUIT

TRAIN

RETAIN

ENGAGE



2023 SPCC ATLANTA AHEC BY-THE-NUMBERS

The following information shows how SPCC Atlanta AHEC's services and programs have benefited communities in 2023.
For more information, please visit www.spcc-atlantaahec.org.



HEALTH CAREER EXPLORATION

4,122

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

received health careers awareness programming through classroom presentations, career guidance, and career fair exhibits throughout schools in our service area

157

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

received intensive programming provided in collaboration with Morehouse School of Medicine's and Emory University School of Medicine's Health Careers Opportunity Programs (HCOP)

617

HEALTH CAREERS IN GEORGIA MANUALS DISTRIBUTED

363 hard copies and
254 via online access



GEORGIA AHEC SCHOLARS

10

SCHOLARS GRADUATED IN 2023

Students were from Clayton State University (CSU) Nursing and Dental Hygiene Programs

8

SCHOLARS COMPLETED YEAR ONE IN 2023

Students were from CSU Nursing and Dental Hygiene Programs



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Health Care Providers, Health Professional Students, Businesses and other volunteers provided assistance to:

1,155

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

128

VOLUNTEERS, HEALTH PRECEPTORS, STUDENTS AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

1,129

MIGRANT FARMWORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES



CONTINUING EDUCATION

437

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND THEIR STAFF

received continuing education credits through attending conferences, workshops, and participating in online webinars

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (MHFA)

69

People trained in MHFA

2

Professionals certified as MHFA Instructors



CLINICAL TRAINING

279

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

received community-based training

73

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL GRADUATES

tracked and currently working in healthcare fields in Fulton, DeKalb, and Clayton counties

443

Community-based rotations

312

Student rotations in Primary care areas

131

Student rotations in non-primary care areas

133

Rotations supported with housing stipends

238

Rotations supported with travel stipends

81

Medicare/Medicaid sites used for **330** rotations