

ADDRESSING THE
HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE
NEEDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA
THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN THE
DEPARTMENTS OF
EDUCATION, LABOR &
REGULATION, HEALTH AND
THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Healthcare Workforce Update

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HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE COLLABORATIVE

Greetings from the South Dakota Office of Rural Health. This office along with our many partners continues to work at addressing South Dakota's healthcare workforce needs. Read on to see what's noteworthy over the past few months as well as upcoming! As always, we welcome your feedback regarding these and other workforce development issues.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OPENS APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR TWO OF THE STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PRESS RELEASE

PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA: On Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, the South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) will open the 2023 application period for the State Loan Repayment Program. This program is designed to improve access to health care services by assisting underserved communities with the recruitment and retention of care providers.

“This is an important step to ensure access to providers and services to South Dakotans who choose to live and work in rural areas of our state,” said Department of Health Secretary, Melissa Magstadt. “Having assistance and incentives available for healthcare providers is critical to enhancing and growing our pipeline for a stronger healthcare workforce in South Dakota.”

Last year, over 200 applicants applied for the program and 14 received funding. Eighty-six percent of the awardees who received funding work in a behavioral healthcare setting. Eligible disciplines include physician, dentist, dental hygienist, nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, physician assistant, health service psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, psychiatric nurse specialist, licensed professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, registered nurse, pharmacist, and alcohol/substance abuse counselor.

In 2022, DOH received a 3-year grant in the amount of \$1,509,000 to administer the State Loan Repayment Program from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Each grant year DOH is allotted \$503,000 to award eligible healthcare professions with student loan reimbursement in turn for a 2-year service commitment at an eligible health care practice site in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) in South Dakota.

Applications are available online starting Oct. 2, 2023 at 8 a.m. CST, and will be reviewed and approved on a first-come, first-served basis. The application period will close on Oct. 31, 2023, at 5 p.m. CST. Application requirements include:

- U.S. Citizen (U.S. born or naturalized) or U.S. national,
- Licensed to practice in South Dakota,
- Applying to, accepted to, or currently working at an eligible site that is located in a federally designated HPSA,
- Unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, and reasonable education and living expenses related to the education of the participant,
- Loans must be segregated from all other debts (that is, not consolidated with non-educational loans).

For more information about the program and eligibility requirements, please visit our website.

At the heart of the Department of Health’s mission is a simple yet profound goal: to protect and improve the health of all South Dakotans. The department is entrusted with the vital task of promoting wellness, preventing disease and ensuring access to quality healthcare for all South Dakotans across our great state.

[View the full press release](#)



SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Got Debt?

SDSLRP can help.

SD STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

The South Dakota State Loan Repayment Program (SD SLRP) is for primary care, mental health, and dental health providers practicing in rural and urban Health Professional Shortage Areas in South Dakota. The purpose of the SD SLRP is to improve access to care by assisting underserved communities with recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals.

CURRENT CYCLE

Applications accepted October 2 - October 31, 2023, and will be reviewed and approved on a first-come, first-served basis.

ELIGIBLE LICENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

- Primary Care Physicians (MD or DO)
- Dentists
- Dental Hygienists
- Certified Nurse Midwives
- Nurse Practitioners
- Physician Assistants
- Health Service Psychologists
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Licensed Professional Counselors
- Psychiatric Nurse Specialists
- Marriage & Family Therapists
- Registered Nurses
- Pharmacists
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselors

MINIMUM SERVICE OBLIGATION

2 years (note: service credit begins when the contract period starts)

ANNUAL REPAYMENT AMOUNT

The SD SLRP provides funds for repayment of qualifying educational loans of **up to \$25,000 annually** for a limited number of full-time primary care providers and up to \$12,500 annually for half-time primary care providers. In return for the loan repayment award, participants must complete a two-year service obligation in eligible practice sites located in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

CONTACT

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START-SD PROGRAM BEGINS NEW WORK TO REDUCE OVERDOSE RATES

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

SDSU's program to address substance use disorder in South Dakota has received additional funding to combat substance use overdose.

A new award of \$300,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration will result in a one-year program titled START-SD-Overdose Response (START-SD-OR), which will increase access to naloxone and fentanyl test strips, provide education and training on naloxone use and distribution, develop an anti-stigma campaign, and expand access to peer recovery coaches.

Since 2019, the START-SD program has worked on prevention, treatment, and recovery services for opioid use disorder and psychostimulant use disorder.

Erin Miller, project director, says one of her designs for the new program is “to continue to reduce the harm in our communities that is caused by substance use disorder by focusing on reducing harm related to overdose.”

The overall goal of the program is to “reduce morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorder in target communities among adults ages 18-54 through promotion of harm reduction strategies, education and training with health care facilities, and increasing access to treatment and recovery services through education, training, and placement of peer coaches.”

To complete this work, the START-SD team is partnering with the South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care, Emily's Hope, the University of South Dakota, Straight Up Care, Face It TOGETHER, and the Coteau des Prairies Health Care System.

“Substance use disorder can impact anyone. . . we still have more work to do and people who still need help in South Dakota,” said Miller.

[Learn more](#)

SIMULATION IN MOTION - HEALTHCARE EDUCATION ON WHEELS

CONTRIBUTED BY SANFORD HEALTH



Simulation in Motion - South Dakota is a collaborative partnership between the three primary healthcare organizations in the State of South Dakota and the Department of Health. Since 2009, Simulation in Motion- South Dakota (SIM-SD) has been serving the educational needs of hospitals, ambulances, and healthcare sites through immersive experiences utilizing medical simulation.

Simulation is a proven methodology for healthcare education that has a demonstrated reduction in healthcare errors, improvements in patient outcomes and streamlined clinical care delivery. Interactive scenarios allow participants the ability to encounter high risk-low frequency events without the potential of harm or risk. Participants encounter clinical cases that are complex and include both frequent and infrequently utilized skills. Participants convey that they develop individual and team confidence through immersive experiences that focus on clinical assessment, critical thinking, clinical judgement and care management.

Sanford Health - Center for Prehospital Care and Simulation is one of the primary health systems offering a mobile simulation program through the SIM-SD partnership. The Sanford Health simulation team conducts simulation multiple times each week serving over 5000 participants per year. Simulation scenarios include medical and trauma conditions while incorporating multiple age groups for the participants to experience. The mobile sim program provides maternal scenarios that allow clinicians the ability to deliver a baby and experience OB complications. Additional mannequin platforms that Sanford Health utilizes in their program includes adult, child, toddler, infant and micro-preemie experiences. Participants have the ability to encounter consistent and quality education that impacts their professional and organizational needs with a focus on site specific care management.

For educational inquiries and interest please email our office at EMServices@sanfordhealth.org - visit our website www.sanfordEMSeducation.org or visit our Facebook page Sanford Academic Affairs EMS Outreach.

AVERA ACADEMY STANDOUT SHOWS HOW PROGRAM HELPS LAUNCH CAREERS

CONTRIBUTED BY AVERA HEALTH

Johnathan Marroquin, a 19-year-old from Mexico's Michoacan state, is the first in his family to complete high school and start college. He began excelling with straight A's in high school, gained acceptance into the Avera Academy, and is now in his second year at Southeast Technical College. Marroquin is juggling two jobs, including one at Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center, where he works as a patient care technician in surgery. He aspires to demonstrate to his cousins and nieces that a better life is attainable.

Marroquin's educational journey is financially supported by the Avera Academy program, which is a collaboration between Avera, the Sioux Falls School District, and Southeast Tech. It exposes students to healthcare opportunities and helps them further their education. Marroquin is on track to become a surgical technologist, having fallen in love with surgery as a career choice. He appreciates the teamwork involved in healthcare, which he finds awe-inspiring.

His dedication and hard work are evident throughout his journey, from working at a local sandwich shop at age 15 to pouring concrete and operating heavy equipment during high school summers. He's also a student in the Build Dakota program, earning a scholarship that will require him to work as a surgical technician for Avera for three years after completing his certification. Marroquin's inspiring story serves as an example to his niece and others in his community, showing that hard work and dedication can lead to a better future with job security and no debt.

To learn more about his remarkable journey, read the full article at [SiouxFalls.Business](#).

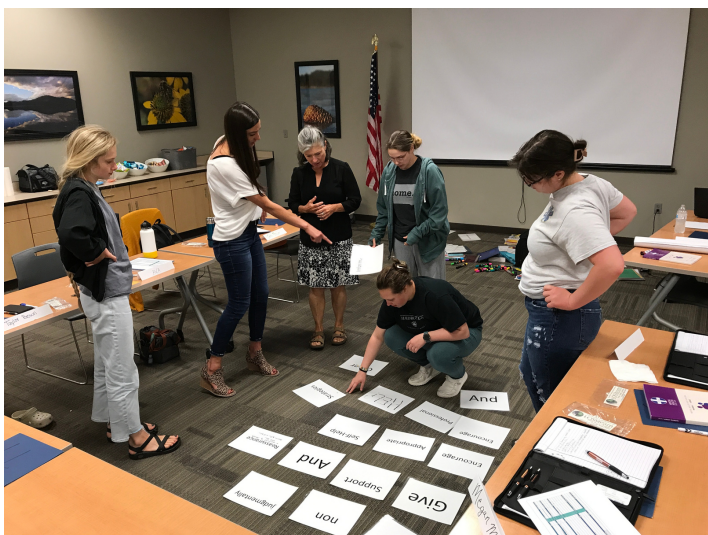


AHEC SCHOLAR'S RURAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

CONTRIBUTED BY WEST RIVER AHEC



The West River Area Health Education Center (AHEC) held its annual Rural Health Leadership Institutes for WRAHEC Scholars in June. Institute I for Cohort IV, held June 19-22, included these presentations and activities: CliftonStrengths®, facilitated by Michelle May; Brooke Hoffman Lyon from the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI); Ruth Torola from Working Against Violence, Inc. (WAVI); Emily Larimer of LifeSource about organ, tissue, and eye donation; Tim Trithart, CEO of the Community Health Center of the Black Hills, on Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC); Marcia Taylor from Monument Health about cultural diversity in healthcare and patient experience; and Tracy Palacek on Poverty 101 and Reframe Up. The cohort also toured St. Martin's Village, Fall River Health Services, and the Sanford Underground Research Facility.



Cohort III of WRAHEC Scholars met June 6-9 in Rapid City for their second Rural Health Leadership Institute. The week included multiple presentation, activities, and tours: Dominique Tigert of Catholic Social Services on Trauma-informed care; Chad Ronish from the Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF) in Lead on medical radiation and neutron treatments; Dr. Amanda Diel of CHCBH's Iris Clinic on LGBTQ+ Care in Healthcare Settings; a mental health/trauma simulation with Krista Kirst and Roger Habermann at the WDT Sim Center; OneHeart tour with Julie Oberlander; and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) certification with Dominique Tigert.



A cultural competency highlight of the week was a trip to Pine Ridge and the southern Hills, including a Pine Ridge IHS facility tour and presentation with Cory Black Feather and Jacey Twiss, and visits to Wounded Knee, the Red Cloud Indian Art Show, and Wind Cave. During the trip, Dr. Arthur Zimiga shared insights from his life and work as an American Indian educator and professional.

The AHEC Scholars program is designed for college-level health profession students interested in supplementing their education by gaining relevant knowledge and experiences in rural and underserved areas of SD. [Learn more](#) about this free, professional development program.

SANFORD HEALTH RECEIVES \$3 MILLION DOL NURSING EXPANSION GRANT

CONTRIBUTED BY SANFORD HEALTH

U.S. Department of Labor Nursing Expansion Grant Program is designed to support nursing training programs to diversify the pipeline of nursing professionals to fill open positions and improve the US healthcare system. Sanford Health was awarded nearly \$3 million in funding through this program to help strengthen the nursing workforce in the rural upper Midwest, where nursing shortages are very acute. As the largest rural health system in the country, Sanford is well positioned to carry out a nursing workforce expansion project that will benefit rural nurses and the patients served.

Sanford's Nursing Expansion Grant program is designed to improve first-year retention for new nurses and increase the number of nurses in the Registered Nurse career pathway in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa by expanding paid internship programs. Grant funds will enhance the internship program through financial support to nurse interns, removing barriers such as travel expenses to rural facilities. These internship experiences will expand the clinical skills and knowledge of nursing students to better prepare them to join the nursing workforce in long term care, ambulatory care, or acute care. Grant funds will support individualized tools and technology resources to improve access to nursing professional development opportunities for all care settings. This will facilitate improved preceptor preparation to better support nursing interns and new graduate nurses alike.

This grant will also fund faculty positions to jumpstart an accelerated BSN second degree program in partnership with North Dakota State University, with an emphasis on improving recruitment and experience in rural areas. By improving recruitment, retention, and engagement in RN internship programs and career pathways, offering financial support, and performing continuous quality improvement, Sanford's Nursing Expansion Grant strives to reduce barriers and create a more sustainable nursing workforce for generations to come. The grant period started June 1, 2023 and runs through May of 2028.



SDSU NURSING STUDENTS TEACH KIDS HEALTHY SUMMER HABITS AT ZOO

CONTRIBUTED BY SDSU COLLEGE OF NURSING

A group of 37 South Dakota State University nursing students promoted healthy summer habits by holding a health fair at the Great Plains Zoo on June 16. The event, which offered the zoo's youngest visitors lessons in water safety, sun protection and physical activity, served as pediatric clinical experience for the SDSU students. The organizers were all second-semester nursing students from the program's Sioux Falls site.

"This is students' non-acute experience, where they get to interact with children who are healthy. They engage with the kids and really learn how kids learn best, how to interact with kids, talk to kids," said Cori Heier, lecturer in SDSU's College of Nursing.

Heier said the zoo was a perfect location for the health fair because it attracts a steady stream of visitors of all ages. The students prepared with refreshers on different developmental levels for kids and what types of activities were appropriate for a variety of ages. Children spent their time at the health fair discovering which items sink or float, trying on life jackets and learning safe swimming tips. At the sun safety station, kids spread sunscreen on animal characters to make sure everything was covered.

Physical exercise activities included bowling, kicking soccer balls, throwing footballs and bean bags, and running through bubbles set up near the picnic shelter. Activities also incorporated animals—such as walk like a bear, hop like a frog and run like a cheetah—to make exercise fun.

CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD MALTREATMENT RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GRANT TO REACH MORE FAMILIES THROUGH INNOVATIVE WIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

CONTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

The Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment (CPCM), a center of the University of South Dakota, has been awarded a \$1 million grant to implement a WIC Community Innovation and Outreach Project (WIC CIAO). WIC CIAO is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service and aims to support outreach strategies to increase awareness, participation, and benefit redemption in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and reduce disparities in program delivery.

The CPCM will use the grant to partner with WIC to expand partnerships with community organizations to develop and test WIC outreach efforts. The grant will amplify the voice of parenting adults from underserved populations in South Dakota who are WIC-eligible and/or who are parenting WIC-eligible children.

Reaching more families with WIC will have positive impacts on the community. WIC has been shown to provide wide-ranging benefits, including longer, safer pregnancies, with fewer premature births and infant deaths; improved dietary outcomes for infants and children; improved maternal health; and improved performance at school, among others. In addition to health benefits, WIC



participants showed significant savings in health care costs when compared to non-participants. In South Dakota, WIC provided healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding counseling and referrals for 13,725 participants, including 1,647 pregnant and postpartum individuals, 3,020 infants up to 12 months, and 7,983 children up to age 5 every month, on average this fiscal year (10/2022-2/2023).

Group photo from left to right: Sheila Gestring, USD president; Haifa Abou Samra, Dean of the School of Health Sciences; Mario Ramos, Deputy Regional Administrator for USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Mountain Plains Region; Darla Biel, interim director, CPCM; Rhonda Buntrock, WIC Director, Office of Child and Family Services Assistant Administrator; SD Department of Health; Hanna Skadsen, Program Integrity Specialist, Child & Family Services, SD Department of Health; Jason SimonRessler, WIC CIAO Volunteer/USD MPH Student/City of Sioux Falls Health Department.

USD GRADUATES FIRST DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM COHORT

CONTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

The University of South Dakota's Department of Nursing marked a milestone in August, when the first students graduated from its Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. The DNP program admitted its first students in spring of 2021. The online DNP, with a specialization in organizational and system leadership, meets the growing demand for nursing leadership who practice at the organizational and systems level and prepares nurses to lead within complex health systems in roles of administration, executive leadership and academic faculty. The DNP program was created to help South Dakota address a nursing shortage crisis and introduces well prepared nurse leaders with a strong business acumen and ability to navigate and foster change.

"There is a strong need for highly prepared nurses in our state, to lead, mentor, and create positive change in health care," said Anne Pithan, chair of the USD Department of Nursing. "This first class of DNP graduates will create a pipeline of many doctoral-prepared nurses and this program represents USD's long-standing commitment of excellence and support of the nursing workforce in the state of South Dakota."

A class from the Master of Science in Nursing in Informatics and e-health program also graduated at the same ceremony. Throughout the last seven decades, USD Nursing has evolved in response to emerging employer and state needs, gradually transforming from an associate degree granting program to a doctorate granting program, most recently adding the DNP and in 2023, the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) degree.



NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO BE A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

With a shortage of respiratory therapists in the nation, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 14% growth in the profession from 2021 to 2031, with about 9,400 job openings projected each year. To combat the shortage, Avera Health, Monument Health, Sanford Health, and SDSU, partnering with the Northern Plains Health Network, are each providing unique incentives including scholarships, sponsorships and sign-on bonuses for those wanting to become a respiratory therapist.

Avera Health offers scholarships, sign-on bonuses and a student loan repayment program. Students who commit to work with Avera for three years will receive a \$15,000 scholarship and a \$15,000 sign-on bonus when hired. Additionally, Avera is offering up to \$10,000 through its Student Loan Repayment Program.

Monument Health is offering two incentives. The first is up to \$40,000 in scholarships for those pursuing a degree in respiratory therapy who commit to working at Monument for three years. The second is up to \$25,000 in sign-on bonuses for respiratory therapists.

Sanford Health is offering unique sponsorship programs eligible to students. Sanford offers either a \$15,000 sponsorship for students who commit to working with Sanford for two years or a \$20,000 sponsorship for students who commit to working with Sanford for three years.

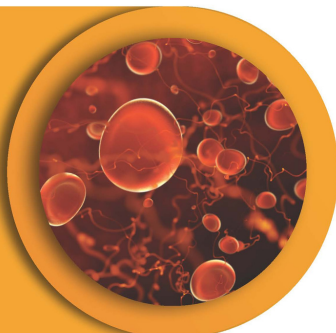
SDSU also has its own scholarship opportunity available to students. Through the BREATHE-SD program, students pursuing an associate degree in respiratory care at SDSU can receive scholarships that cover half the cost of tuition. [Learn more](#)

TRENDS IN HEALTH CARE

CONTRIBUTED BY LABOR MARKET INFORMATION CENTER, SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND REGULATION

SOUTH DAKOTA Hot Trends in Health Care

August 2023




16%

South Dakota's Health Care industry is a major source of employment and earnings, accounting for 16% of all workers in privately owned establishments and nearly 20% of those employers' payrolls.



#1

South Dakota's Health Care industry added more than 8,000 workers (16%) over the last 10 years, more than any other private industry.



7,000+

The Health Care industry is projected to be among the state's largest growth industries to 2030, adding more than 7,000 workers to the state's economy with a growth rate exceeding 12%.



1:2

Half of South Dakota's 10 occupations projected to grow the fastest to 2030 are directly or indirectly related to health care.

Connect with the Labor Market Information Center to learn more about trends in South Dakota's Health Care industry and explore career opportunities in this dynamic field.

 420 S. Roosevelt St.
Aberdeen, SD 57401

 605.626.2314

 dlr.sd.gov/lmic

More Detailed Data

There were 48,479 job openings advertised online in South Dakota's Health Care and Social Assistance industry during 2022, more than in any other industry. In fact, this industry accounted for more than three times the job openings as the next highest ranking industries (Retail Trade and Manufacturing) in terms of the number of job openings advertised.

South Dakota's Health Care industry is a major source of employment and earnings in South Dakota, accounting for 58,931 workers (or 16.0% of all workers in privately owned establishments) and 19.8% of privately owned establishment payrolls in 2022 (based on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, QCEW).

The number of workers in South Dakota's Health Care industry increased 8,128 workers (16.0%) from 2012 to 2022, higher than the 12.0% growth rate of all private industries (based on QCEW).

South Dakota's Health Care industry is projected to be among the largest growth industries through 2030. The industry is projected to add 7,291 workers to South Dakota's economy from 2020 to 2030. The rate of growth is projected to be 12.4%, much faster than the 8.5% growth projected for all industries.

Five of the 10 occupations projected to grow the fastest to 2030 in South Dakota are directly or indirectly related to health care. The table below shows projected employment and demand for the 10 healthcare occupations projected to be in greatest demand.

| South Dakota Health Care Occupations Projected to be in Greatest Demand 2020-2030 | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ranking | Occupation | 2020 Employment | 2030 Projected Employment | 2020-2030 Percent Change | Projected Annual Demand |
| 1 | Registered Nurses | 13,436 | 15,046 | 12.0% | 899 |
| 2 | Nursing Assistants | 6,218 | 6,733 | 8.3% | 834 |
| 3 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 3,829 | 4,572 | 19.4% | 581 |
| 4 | Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | 2,046 | 2,193 | 7.2% | 175 |
| 5 | Medical Assistants | 930 | 1,102 | 18.5% | 135 |
| 6 | Dental Assistants | 860 | 970 | 12.8% | 117 |
| 7 | Pharmacy Technicians | 1,328 | 1,451 | 9.3% | 110 |
| 8 | Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians | 1,325 | 1,485 | 12.1% | 104 |
| 9 | Medical Dosimetrists, Medical Records Specialists, and All Other Health Technologists and Technicians | 1,263 | 1,377 | 9.0% | 104 |
| 10 | Medical and Health Services Managers | 864 | 1,083 | 25.4% | 96 |
| Total, All Occupations | | 483,893 | 525,014 | 8.5% | 59,880 |

Data is preliminary and subject to revision.
Source: Labor Market Information Center, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation



Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. U.S. DOL funded. See dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta_grant.aspx for details.



UNLOCKING THE FUTURE OF RURAL HEALTHCARE: NORTHEAST SD AHEC COLLABORATES WITH AVERA HEALTH TO LAUNCH INNOVATIVE TELEHEALTH STUDENT PRACTICUM PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTED BY NORTHEAST SD AHEC



Northeast South Dakota Area Health Education Center (Northeast SD AHEC) is excited to announce a groundbreaking collaboration with Avera Health's Project NEXT, generously funded by the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA). Together, they are introducing the Telehealth Student Practicum program, a visionary initiative aimed at illuminating the path to promising careers in rural healthcare for high school and undergraduate students. This program is poised to revolutionize how future healthcare professionals engage with technology in the context of rural health.

The Telehealth Student Practicum program is a transformative 40-hour experience offered during the fall, spring, and summer, designed to empower students with essential skills and knowledge. It includes 12 hours of comprehensive education covering telehealth principles, cybersecurity, health informatics, and telehealth ecosystems.



Additionally, students will gain invaluable real-world experience through 28 hours of hands-on shadowing, including visits to Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls and local healthcare facilities.

One student participant shared, "This experience has helped me with my career goals by showing me the inner workings of telehealth and how it's used in healthcare. It was informative to see how technology has evolved in the last 20 years." This program isn't merely a glimpse into healthcare's future; it's a tangible bridge to fulfilling career aspirations. Learn more and apply for the [Telehealth Student Practicum program](#).

For additional information, please contact [Sheila Monnier](#) or call 605.715.5157.



SDSU PHARMACY STUDENTS PROVIDE FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

SDSU pharmacy students from the Student Collaboration for the Advancement and Promotion of Pharmacy (SCAPP) returned for the seventh year to provide free health screenings at the South Dakota State Fair, which was held from Aug. 31 to Sept. 4. Madison Hamel, a pharmacy student, and the organization president, said, "SCAPP offers a variety of events throughout the year focusing on patient care, career development, and student engagement." Some of these include screenings and other patient care events at the Veteran Affairs Car Show, The Banquet, the Sanford Pentagon, and Active Generations in Sioux Falls, at the Harvest Table in Brookings, and at legislative days in Pierre.

"We do this to promote overall health and wellness in the community as well as provide recommendations, allowing patients to take charge of their own health journey," she said. At the 2023 State Fair, the students reached a record number of patients, providing free health screenings to more than 200 people. Hamel added, "This experience also gives pharmacy students an opportunity to practice patient care skills learned in class and apply knowledge that we have learned beyond the classroom."

The student group has several more events planned for the 2023-2024 academic year, including flu shot clinics in Brookings and Sioux Falls, an education booth at the Brookings farmers market, hosting a 5K to raise awareness for mental health, and offering more health screenings at Jackrabbit sporting events.

[Learn more](#)

START-SD PROGRAM HOSTS FIRST RESPONDER SUMMIT ON ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

On August 25, the START-SD team from SDSU hosted a first responder summit in Chamberlain, South Dakota. The free event, entitled "First Responder Summit: Addiction and Mental Health in South Dakota" was an opportunity for health care professionals and first responders to learn about mental health as it relates to addiction and substance use disorder.

Thirty-two attendees participated in events including a keynote on traumatic stress and emergency services, a panel discussion on care coordination, an interactive lunch session with a law enforcement officer, a patient testimonial, and a session on peer recovery.

The event was hosted by SDSU's START-SD program. START-SD, which stands for Stigma, Treatment, Avoidance, and Recovery in time for South Dakota, has been working to combat substance use disorder in South Dakota since 2019.

Irene Arango Gomez, Community Care Coordinator for START-SD, explained that "The summit showed that although there are many great individuals working on the topic of addiction and mental health, we still have much to learn and do. Becoming aware of one another and the work that we do is a key step."

Arango Gomez added the public can also play a key role by helping to fight stigma. "Breaking down stigmas is a great way that we can help address substance use and mental health in South Dakota. Continuing to be compassionate to one another, lending a helping hand, being an advocate, are all great ways to help address substance use and/or mental health in our state." [Learn more](#)

SDSU INSTRUCTOR PLANS WORK TO IMPROVE PERINATAL HEALTH IN SOUTH DAKOTA

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Stephanie Hanson, a population health instructor at SDSU, recently presented a poster at the Postpartum Support International annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Hanson has a Master of Public Health in global health epidemiology and disease control and is also completing a doctorate in social work from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Hanson's work focuses on researching and improving outcomes related to perinatal mental health disorders. Hanson presented on her extensive analysis of news coverage of cases of infanticide committed in the context of postpartum psychosis.

Hanson is herself a survivor of perinatal depression, perinatal anxiety, perinatal PTSD and perinatal psychosis. "I want to do my part to ensure that others don't have the same experiences that I did," Hanson said. "This work is a way for me to give back to the communities I live and work in, and it is also healing for me in so many ways."

Since coming to South Dakota in Fall of 2022, Hanson has seen a need to increase knowledge, awareness and resources related to perinatal mental health.

In response, Hanson has been working on grant applications which will result in major programs to improve perinatal mental health outcomes in South Dakota.

"I am hoping to be able to complete some groundbreaking work in the state very soon, and I look forward to being able to have a positive impact on the experiences of individuals experiencing PMHDs in a setting where it is so desperately needed," Hanson said.

[Learn more](#)

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Contact [Josie Petersen](#), Department of Health

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