



What is the West River AHEC?

The West River Area Health Education Center (WR AHEC) was established in 2019 on the Western Dakota Tech campus located in Rapid City. Our goal is to build a healthcare career pipeline for our region to ensure happy and healthy communities in the future.

The West River Collaborative is representative of 16 Counties and 2 Native American Reservations in western SD.

VALUES:

Innovation—promote a culture of continuous improvement and implementation of novel ideas to ensure that it makes a meaningful impact to healthcare in SD.

Collaboration—partner with like-minded organizations, academic institutions, and healthcare agencies to leverage programs and resources to connect students with careers in healthcare.

Excellence—commit to sustaining the highest caliber of programs and services offered while meeting the Mission of the organization.



West River+SD
AHEC
Area Health Education Center



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INNOVATION + COLLABORATION + EXCELLENCE



Whom We Serve

Students

- **K-8:** Early exposure to healthcare careers via the "You are the Cure" booklet and onsite education
- **High Schools:** HOSA, Scrubs Camp, Pathways Education, Scholarship Opportunities
- **Technical Schools:** CNA, EMS, LPN, other Certificate and Associate Degree information, Disaster Training Day, Pathways Guidance, AHEC Scholars Program, Scholarship Opportunities
- **Universities:** - AHEC Scholars Program, HOSA, REHPS, Pathways Guidance, Scholarship Opportunities

Healthcare Professionals

- Continuing Education
- Healthcare Presentation Network
- SD Employment Network
- Quality of Life Info for SD

Community

- CPR Certification
- Mental Health First Aid Certification
- One-on-One Healthcare Career Guidance
- Veteran's Health Events

Our Programs

Healthcare Career Guidance

Introduction of healthcare careers and pathways for K-12 students as well as the community at large. Schools and the public may request the following resources:

- Printed materials "You Are the Cure" health career booklets
- Educational presentations
- One-on-one guidance sessions



SD HOSA Future Health Professionals

Student organization whose focus is to recruit students into the health care pipeline. Through local and state chapters, SD HOSA provides educational activities and procedures encompassing healthcare careers and topics. Contact the WR AHEC if you are interested in finding out how to start a chapter at your school.

WR SD AHEC Scholars

The WR AHEC Scholars Rural Healthcare Leadership program is designed for health profession students interested in supplementing their education by gaining additional knowledge and experiential learning in rural and/or underserved areas of Western SD.

This is a longitudinal program with interdisciplinary curricula:

- Interprofessional Education
- Behavioral Health Integration
- Practice Transformation
- Social Determinants of Health
- Cultural Competency
- Current Emerging Health Issues



SCRUBS Camps

Hands-on, health career day camps for Western SD high school students. Presented by the South Dakota Office of Rural Health, Scrubs Camps take place in numerous communities across the state. If you would like to set up a Scrubs Camp for your area—feel free to contact the WR AHEC.



Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour course designed to teach you the key skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. This training makes people feel more comfortable managing a crisis and builds Mental Health Literacy. *MHFA Certification is renewed every 3 years.*