



HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

Annual Report
2021-2022

healtheducenter.org

860 465 8281

55 Main St, Suite 270 | Norwich, CT 06360

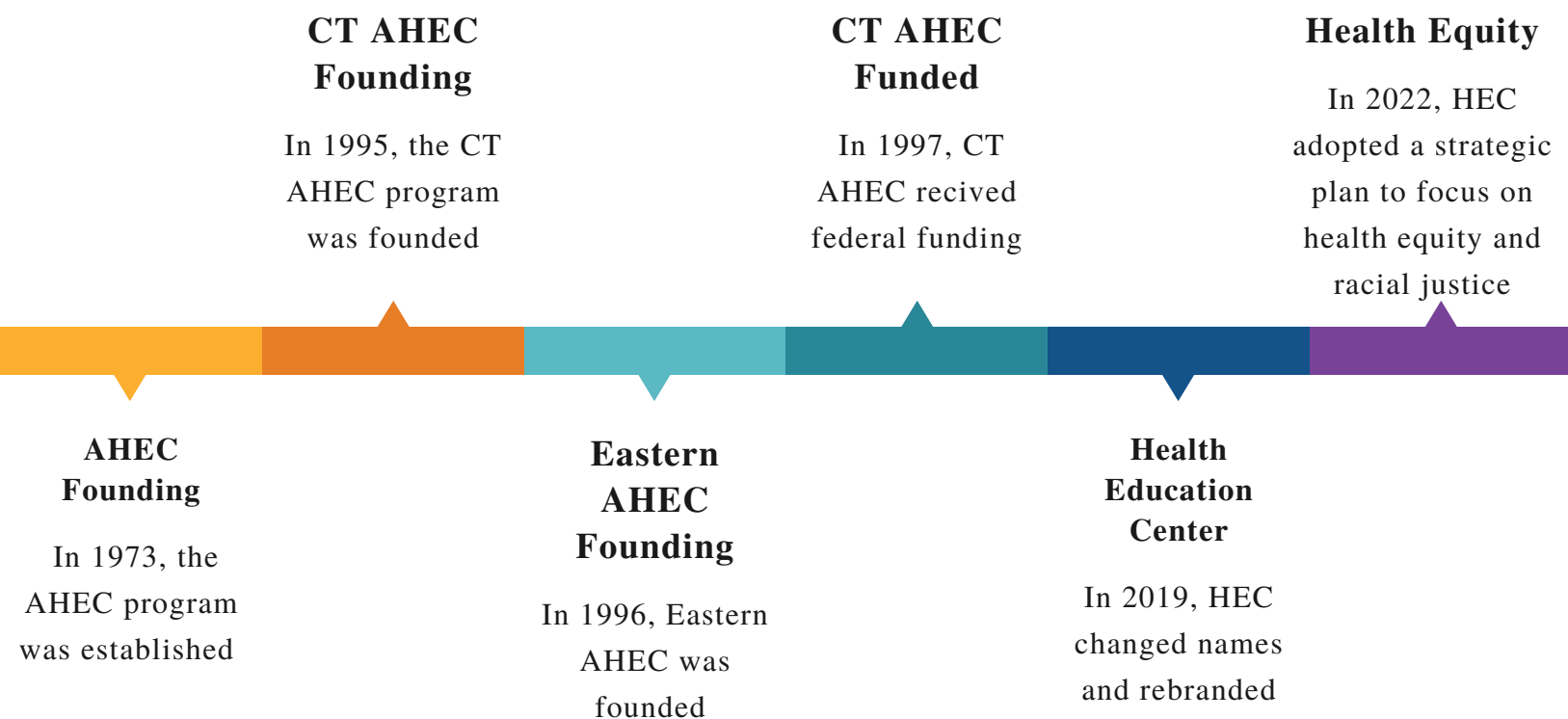
The Health Education Center (HEC)

History

The federal Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program was established in 1973 as a way to encourage medical schools to increase the number of students and residents trained in rural communities. The Connecticut AHEC Program was established in 1995 by the Connecticut General Assembly and received initial federal funding in 1997. The program is based at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in Farmington and implemented by regional AHECs with offices in Waterbury, Hartford, Bridgeport, Willimantic and Norwich.

HISTORY OF THE HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

Formally Eastern AHEC



Health Education Center Today

Health Education Center (HEC) has continued the AHEC programs for eastern Connecticut, but has expanded to include many more programs and trainings that educate community members on health information and healthcare career building opportunities. In 2019, HEC changed names from Eastern AHEC to the Health Education Center to reflect this change.

OUR MISSION

To eliminate health disparities through recruiting, training, and sustaining and supporting health professionals from diverse backgrounds, community engagement, and advocacy.

Commitment to Decreasing Health Disparities

In March 2022, HEC adopted a new strategic plan that builds on the foundation of workforce development, with a greater commitment to keep racial equity and social justice at the center of our efforts. The new plan calls upon the board and the staff to make HEC a more activist organization, grappling with root causes of illness, and advocating for solutions. The plan envisions expansion of our fee-for-service programs, which will provide for more financial stability and discretionary funds.

These financial resources will enable HEC to expand programs and better serve our communities.

Health Education Center Team Members



The HEC Team for this year was comprised of Michele Scott, Executive Director until November 2021; Dr. Steve Smith, Interim Executive Director; Kelsey Holmes, President from March-August 2022; Cherie Poirier, Director of Development and Marketing until August 2022; Alyssa McClain, Director of Programs and Special Projects; Rashawn Hughes, Director of Trainings and Workforce Development; Randi Matzenbacher, Training Coordinator; Emilia Triay, Program Coordinator until September 2022; Leyanna Minnis, Program and Data Assistant; Margret Twum, Program Coordinator.

HEC Board Members

Stephen Smith, MD, MPH

Board Chairman

Physician, Community Health Center, Inc.
Professor Emeritus of Family Medicine,
Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown
University

Laurie Herring

Board Vice-Chairwoman

Chief Operations and Quality Officer
The Arc Eastern Connecticut

Stephanye Clarke

Board Secretary

Program Officer
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

Scott Kadey

Board Treasurer

Chief Information Officer
The Arc Eastern Connecticut

Glorimar Anderson, LCSW

Behavioral Health Clinician
Community Health Center, Inc.

Setu Vora, MD

Chief Medical Officer
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Joseph Zuzel

Manager Community Health for
Eastern Region of Hartford Healthcare

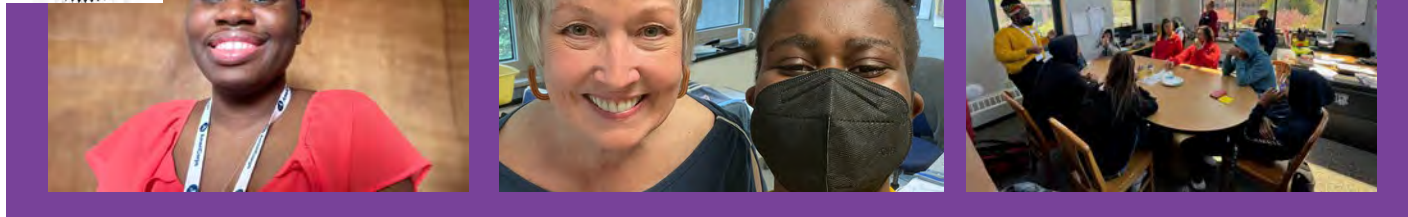
Debbie Phillips

Retired
Community Activist and Volunteer

William Cheng

Real Estate Broker

AmeriCorps



AmeriCorps members are an essential part of the HEC team. Over the years HEC has hosted 38 AmeriCorps as part of the Health Forward Program. Past AmeriCorps members have gone on to pursue careers in the health field including becoming a physician, other have joined the HEC team. These members spend 10 months working hands on with vulnerable populations to bridge the gap in access to health care as well as access to health care education. This year HEC hosted Gisele Ingabrie as an AmeriCorps member. Gisele worked on the YHSC and PHA programs in local schools to encourage and empower youth to explore a career in the health field.

HEC Partners

The Health Education Center works with many community partners to whom we are very grateful.

- Access Community Action Agency
- ARC
- Central AHEC
- Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT
- Community Health and Wellness Center of Torrington
- CHWAB (Community Health Worker Advisory Body)
- Community Foundation of Eastern CT
- Eastern Workforce Investment Board
- Epilepsy Foundation
- Epilepsy Foundation of CT
- Generations Family health Center
- Hartford Healthcare
- Hartford Parent University
- Health 360
- Health Equity Solutions
- Hispanic Alliance of Eastern CT
- Madonna's Place
- Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
- Norwich Technical School
- Office of Minority Health
- Perceptions Program
- Step Up New London
- Southwestern AHEC
- UConn
- TVCCA (Thames Valley Council for Community Action)
- United Services
- United Way of Southeastern CT
- Youth Service America

Scholarships



Dellanira Rodriguez Perez



Jessica Gerald



Jillian Watt

The Health Education Center (HEC) awarded three \$1000 scholarships to students studying in a health profession field. Scholarships are limited to students residing in Windham County or New London County, Connecticut. Students must plan to enter the health field and remain in Connecticut upon graduation to serve medically underserved or vulnerable populations. Medically underserved and vulnerable populations include, but are not limited to, racial and ethnic minorities, residents in rural communities, under- or uninsured, and immigrant residents.

Recent Donors and Funders

- The Bluebird Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- CDC
- Chelsea Groton Foundation
- Community Foundation of Eastern CT
- Epilepsy Foundation
- HRSA
- Jeffery P. Ossen Family Foundation
- Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
- Office of Minority Health
- Perceptions Program
- SAMSHA
- Sharon R. O'Meara Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- United Way
- William Casper Graustein Memorial, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- Youth Service America



2021 - 2022 Accomplishments

97

Students participated in the Youth Health Service Corps program

53

Students were trained to become Community Health Workers

20

Students participated in and completed the Colligate Health Service Corps program

38

Students were trained to become Medical Interpreters

239

Students participated in the Public Health Ambassadors program

66

Language Proficiency Assessment were conducted

119

Students received community-based experiential training

49

Students were trained and certified in CPR, AED, and first aid

39

Students participated in continuing education courses

6

Students were trained in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills training

169

Students participated in the Interprofessional Education program

142

Community members were served during 23 free health clinics were held

Youth and Student Programs

Public Health Ambassador



The Public Health Ambassadors (PHA) program partners with middle schools and high schools in eastern CT to educate students on social determinants of health, cultural competency, vulnerable populations, health disparities, the Health Occupations and Technology (HOT) guide, and public health careers. Increasing awareness about public health allows students to understand the needs of various populations and communities, thus increasing the likelihood of students serving those communities.

Youth Health Service Corps

The Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) is an award winning health career recruitment program that engages middle and high school students in quality service-learning projects that address pressing community health issues. Through service, YHSC members explore health careers while acquiring real-life experience working with underserved populations in community health care settings.



Collegiate Health Service Corps



The Collegiate Health Service Corps (CHSC) is a 10 week, 20-hour service-learning opportunity in the fall and spring semesters for college students interested in pursuing a career in healthcare. Students explore health careers, promote preventative health care, and address the needs of the medically underserved communities at a statewide level. Participants have the opportunity to attend a trip to the UConn Medical School and participate in HEC events.

Interprofessional Education

The Interprofessional Education Program (IPE) fosters collaboration between community partners, health profession students, licensed clinicians, medical interpreters and community health workers to coordinate services for diverse populations in medically underserved areas.



Training Programs

Community Health Worker Training

100%

of graduates surveyed increased their interest in working with medically underserved communities

The Community Health Worker (CHW) Training introduces learners to the core concepts of the Community Health Worker Program. The curriculum highlights the key components of designing community health systems. Participants will learn from leaders on how to advocate for, build and optimize community health worker programs.

Language Proficiency Assessment

The Language Proficiency Assessment (LPA) test individuals language proficiency through an intense three level testing. The first measures client's fluency in English, second measures fluency of a different language. If client passes both of these with an 80% or better, HEC's oral assessor provides real-life interpretation testing via telecommunication. Successfully passing all three levels demonstrates bilingual fluency.



Medical and Community Interpreter Training

80%

of students recommend this program to other healthcare institutions

Medical and Community Interpreter Program provides specialized training in healthcare, education, and community interpretation. An interpreter learns cultural systems that make communication skills pertinent in healthier and safer lifestyles as well as expertise in the code of ethics; modes, and techniques of community interpreting; and common medical concepts and procedures terminology.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

HEC's Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is an interactive workshop in suicide first aid. ASIST teaches community members to recognize when someone may have thoughts of suicide and work with them to create a plan that will support their immediate safety.

94%

of participants recommend ASIST to others

CPR, AED, and First Aid Training



The American Red Cross First Aid CPR, and AED program helps participants recognize and respond appropriately to cardiac, breathing and first aid emergencies. The courses in this program teaches participants the knowledge and skills needed to give immediate care to an injured or ill person and to decide whether advanced medical care is needed.

HEC Projects

Be the Change Program

Southwest AHEC has partnered with HEC to increase financial support and Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) protective factors among minority populations through outreach and education.

CDC Health Disparities Grant

United Way partnered with HEC to produce PSA on COVID tailored to the CT tribal communities and hold continuing education classes for CHWs that address COVID related health concerns.

Healthy Beginnings

Hartford Healthcare partnered with HEC to CHWs and Medical Interpreters visit new mothers on health and wellness visits.

Indigenous Health Data Initiative

Examining the data collection practices around demographic data and how that translates into funding allocations.

CPR, AED, and First Aid in Spanish

HEC received funding from the Chelsea Groton Foundation to provide CPR, AED, and first aid training in Spanish using diverse mannikins.

CPR, AED, and First Aid Outreach to the Black Community

The Black Health Collective partnered with HEC to outreach to the Black community to provide CPR, AED, and first aid training to Black churches.

SAMHSA Prevention Navigator Grant

The Perceptions Project partnered with HEC to bring substance use prevention and HIV prevention to racial and ethnic minorities through the YHSC program.

Epilepsy Awareness

The Epilepsy Foundation funded the Epilepsy Foundation of CT and HEC to raise awareness of epilepsy through education, outreach, and data collection.

CHW Training for Local Organization

The Community Foundation of eastern CT funded HEC to train community resources workers from local organizations as CHW.

Health Equity and Racial Justice Program

The Community Foundation of eastern CT funded HEC to train staff and board members on health equity and racial justice and develop a community training.

Career Building in Northeast CT

The Jeffery P. Ossen Family Foundation funded HEC to train participants of the A2E program at Access Agency and the Peer Recovery Specialist program at United Services as CHWs and Medical Interpreters.

Cultural Competency and Languages

Norwalk Public Health partnered with HEC to train their staff in cultural competency participially regarding language.



Health Education Center

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS		2021
CURRENT ASSETS:		
	Cash	\$ 303,006
	Investments	\$ 117,646
	Grants and other receivables	\$ 43,877
	Prepaid expenses	\$ 3,747
	Total assets	\$ 486,276

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		2021
LIABILITIES:		
	Accounts payable and other accrued expenses	\$ 4,888
	Accrued salaries	\$ 24,494
	Refundable advance	-
	• Paycheck Protection Program	
	Refundable advance	\$ 39,291
	Total liabilities	\$ 68,673
NET ASSETS:		
	Without donor restrictions	\$ 399,603
	Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 468,276

