

### **FY15 OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT #3**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance University Budget Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 266

**OFFERED BY:** Rep. Josephson

**DEPARTMENT:** University of Alaska

**APPROPRIATION:** University of Alaska

**ALLOCATION:** Anchorage Campus

**ADD:** \$727,900 (\$652,900 UGF 1004 / \$75,000 UNIV RCPT 1048)

**EXPLANATION:** This increment will provide funding for the Alaska Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program that provides critical healthcare workforce development activities in each region across the state.

The AHEC System is key to growing, strengthening and diversifying the healthcare workforce. AHEC is housed at the University of Alaska Anchorage and the Program Office sets the direction for annual and long-term performance. AHEC centers are located in five regions: Southcentral, Southeast, Northwest, the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, the Interior and the Program Office in Anchorage.

AHEC activities use the Alaska Health Workforce Coalition's strategies to engage, train, recruit and retain healthcare workers.

The AHECs use live and distance-delivered continuing education and training opportunities, health career presentations and job fairs, job shadows, internships, clinical rotations, preceptor / clinical coach development and health career camps, each according to regional needs.

**Engaging Potential Healthcare Professionals:**

AHECS reached 816 students and 64% stated they were more interested in health careers after the AHEC activity. AHECs also coordinated 245 job shadows across Alaska.

**Training Healthcare Professionals:**

AHECS coordinated and funded 225 clinical rotations and developed six new clinical sites, expanding Alaska's capacity for training students and getting them through school.

**Recruiting Healthcare Professionals to Work in Alaska Communities:**

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development provided data to assess programmatic impact by tracking how many students since 2006 are working in Alaska. 1,089 students have graduated and 843 (77%) are working in Alaska. 18% work in a rural borough or census area. This percentage is considerably higher than average rural recruitment rates, which range nationally between 8-12%.

Retaining Alaska's Healthcare Professionals:

AHEC's workforce retention strategy centers on providing and improving access to continuing education and professional development. This strategy is widely recognized as a key to health workforce retention. In 2013, 1,171 unique participants attended AHEC training and professional development and 45% were from rural communities. The Rural Veterans' Health Access trainings touched 108 providers and 309 additional participated in the Alzheimer's training series, of which 56% reported a plan to implement a change in their practice.