



Area Health Education Center

Capital Connection

FALL 2009



Capital AHEC, by virtue of its contract to manage the Texas Rural Health Association, has been very busy these past few months getting ready for the 2009 Texas Rural Health Forum. The conference is a collaborative effort between Texas Rural Health Association, Texas Hospital Association, Texas Department of Rural Affairs and Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals. This cooperative effort is an attempt to give rural health care constituents a bigger bang for their educational and travel dollars.

This year the conference has a great line up of presenters. Carrie Cochran from the federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Tim Skinner with the National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network, Camille Miller with the Texas Health Institute to name just a few. We will also have a legislative panel that will discuss key legislation passed in the 81st legislature and how that will impact rural health care.

Workshop topics include Health Information Technology including ARRA funding and the sweeping changes that are just around the corner for our providers, hospitals and clinics. We will examine health care reform on several difference platforms as well as discuss the array of resources available to rural health care providers right now. Several of the conference sessions will highlight replicable programs that are successful rural models.

In addition to the educational sessions there will ample opportunities to net work in the exhibit hall and during evening receptions overlooking beautiful Lady Bird Lake. Registration is still open; additional information on the conference schedule and registration information can be found at <http://www.trha.org/conferences.htm>.

Health care is changing rapidly; don't miss this opportunity to hear what is in store for our state and our nation.

Program Updates

Health Literacy



Binational Health Week 2009 was a Success!



Austin celebrated its 4th year of participation in this nation-wide movement to improve the health and well-being of Latino families with a week-long series of free health events for the Latino community.

The Ventanilla de Salud led more than 15 area agencies of the Binational Health Week Planning Committee in organizing the health events that took place October 3-15. With participation from county agencies, local and national non-profits, health oriented businesses and area hospitals, the health community was well represented in the planning committee.

Strong media support and community networking helped us reach tens of thousands of those in our target audience with Binational Health Week's message of preventative health and schedule of events. Coverage by Univision TV, Telemundo, and various local news networks, as well as radio interviews with Univision Radio and the City of Austin helped inform the public of the free health activities. Widespread information diffusion also occurred through the support of Austin ISD, Nurse Oncology Education Program, Travis County Children's Partnership, partner websites and more.

The City of Austin and Travis County Commissioners Court showed their support for our local efforts and the importance of the national movement by each presenting the Ventanilla de Salud with a proclamation recognizing October 3-15, 2009 as Binational Health Week.



Consul Ojeda and Annie Crawford receiving County proclamation

All these efforts paid off with high participation from the community at our free health events throughout the week:

- 1 Stroke prevention workshop with 30 participants
- 1 Breast Cancer awareness workshop with 7 participants
- 2 Flu and immunization clinics serving over 150 participants
- 3 Physical Activity Camps with nearly 20 participants
- 6 Nutrition workshops with more than 50 participants
- Health Fair featuring education, enrollments and screenings such as: HIV, cholesterol, vision, blood glucose, blood pressure, and tuberculosis. See table on page 3 for health fair outcomes.

Program Updates

2009 Binational Health Week Health Fair Outcomes	
Health Information Provided	759
Screenings Performed	130
Assisted establishing a medical home	178
Enrollments into Public Health Program	52
Total Number of People Impacted	1,119

We look forward to next year's 10th annual Binational Health Week and the opportunity to expand even further into Central Texas. To learn how to get involved or learn more about the activities that took place, contact Annie Crawford at acrawford@capitalahec.org.

Community Based Education

The UTMB Teacher of Distinction (TOP DOC) Awards began in 1999 as a means to recognize the contributions of community-based physicians who have unselfishly given their time and effort for the education of the next generation of health care professionals. UTMB extends its deepest appreciation to these role models who, in providing quality and compassionate care to their patients, have made a lasting impact on the lives of their students.

UTMB School of Medicine faculty, staff, community-based course committees, and Area Health Education Center (AHEC) representatives made their nominations for Top Doc Award recipients from a pool of more than 250 active student preceptors. The Top Doc committee made the final selections based on multiple criteria, including exemplary student evaluations, time and commitment to community-based education, quality of the educational environment, and participation in faculty development and community service activities.

The Capital AHEC would like to congratulate 5 Austin area physicians that won the UTMB TOP DOC Award over the last two years:

Dr. Donald Counts, Family Medicine, Austin
Dr. Mrudula Deshpande, Pediatrics, Austin
Dr. Roger Pruitt, Pediatrics, Wimberley/Dripping Springs
Dr. Dale Schaefer, Dermatology, Austin
Dr. Azim Shekarchi, Internal Medicine, Austin

For more information about UTMB's TOP DOC award and to see those that have won the award in the past, please visit: http://meded.utmb.edu/orme/Community_faculty/Top%20Doc/TopDocHome.htm.

New Staff for the Ventanilla



Cordelia Stough joined the Capital AHEC team on September 1st as a VISTA coordinator.

Cordelia graduated in 2009 from Southwestern University with a degree in Latin American Studies and a minor in Spanish. She grew up by Lake Travis so she is familiar with the area.

She is excited to be living and working in Austin proper for the next year. Cordelia will

be working with Annie Crawford at the Ventanilla de Salud. She hopes to help the Ventanilla build its capacity to serve the local Hispanic population by recruiting and retaining volunteers, targeting future funding sources to ensure sustainability of the program, and designing efficient ways of tracking their impact in order to improve the overall strength of the program.

Please join me in welcoming Cordelia Stough to the AHEC family.

Flu Season has Officially Begun!

Don't forget to schedule your annual Flu shot. For a Flu shot locator or to learn more about the Flu visit www.flu.gov.

Upcoming Events

**Texas Rural Health Forum
Conference Registration**
www.tha.org/forum09

**Texas Rural Health Forum
Hotel Reservation**
<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/txruralhealth>
888.421.1442

Texas Rural Health Forum
November 9-10
Hyatt Regency Austin

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