



Area Health Education Center

Capital Connection

FALL 2011



Capital AHEC Center Director Takes New Position with West Texas AHEC

Becky Conditt, long-time director of the Capital Area Health Education Center, will be leaving at the end of October to begin a new career as program director of West Texas AHEC at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health in Lubbock.



Becky has 18 years combined experience in the Texas AHEC East program, serving at Piney Woods AHEC in Nacogdoches for 12 years prior to her move to Austin, where she has served as the director of Capital AHEC for almost 6 years. She also has served as executive director of the Texas Rural Health Association, the advocacy and education organization for rural health issues in Texas.

“While I am sad to leave Austin I am honored to be chosen for this position,” Becky said. “I look forward to learning more about the region and how the institute and specifically AHEC can work with the communities to make West Texas a healthier place to live. AHEC is a wonderful program that can do tremendous things. I am energized about this wonderful opportunity and plan to hit the ground running.”

As director of the West Texas AHEC, Becky will oversee an expansive program jointly funded by Texas state appropriation and federal grant funding.

While Capital AHEC is sad to see the director go, we wish her all the best in her new position and know she will do well. Becky will begin her duties on Nov. 1. Capital AHEC looks forward to making the announcement of our new director in the months to come.

Program Updates

Three Austin Physicians Named Teachers of Distinction

On Saturday, Oct. 8, The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) recognized 10 Texas physicians as Teachers of Distinction, or Top Docs. Each year UTMB accepts nominations from School of Medicine faculty, staff, course committees, and Area Health Education Center (AHEC) representatives for outstanding community educators deserving of this prestigious award. Capital AHEC would like to congratulate three Austin physicians who were among this year's recipients:

Dr. Jayashree Mani, Pediatrics
Dr. Peter Nutson, Internal Medicine
Dr. Roxana Rhodes, Internal Medicine

The 2011 Top Docs were nominated from more than 350 active community preceptors throughout the state. 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 Teacher of Distinction Awards began in 1999 as a way to recognize the contributions of exceptional community preceptors who help educate our future physicians. Since 1999, 27 Austin area physicians have been named Top Docs. The 13th annual awards banquet was held at the San Louis Resort & Conference Center in Galveston. The event was sponsored by the UTMB Office of Clinical Education and Texas AHEC East.



Left to right: Michelle Corn (AHEC), Dr. Jayashree Mani, Dr. Roxana Rhodes, Dr. Peter Nutson

Capital AHEC is Moving

In January Capital AHEC will have a new home in the Texas State University St. David's School of Nursing in Round Rock. "It is a wonderful opportunity to work more closely with the Texas State University nursing program as well as the other health career programs in the area such as Austin Community College and Texas A&M." stated Becky Conditt, Capital AHEC Director.

When new contact information is available it will be posted to the Capital AHEC website and featured in the next edition of the Capital Connection.



Binational Health Week 2011

October 1-16



Ventanilla de Salud, the health literacy program targeting underserved Latino populations, led local participation in the 11th Annual Binational Health Week (BHW). BHW is a nation-wide movement to promote health and well-being among vulnerable Latino and immigrant populations. This multi-national effort brings together Latin American Consulates, local and federal government agencies and health-focused organizations in its mission to promote preventative health.

As in previous years, the Ventanilla de Salud chaired the BHW committee to bring together this year's efforts and 16 health and human service agencies to provide two weeks of free health events. The celebrations were kicked-off with a media event and reception hosted at the Consulate General of Mexico in Austin. Consul General Rosalba Ojeda led the speakers which included Eddie Rodriguez, Texas State House Representative, and Carlos Rivera, Director of the Austin Travis County Health & Human Services. The Consulate General of Mexico also took this opportunity to announce the new tobacco-free campus policy adopted as part of its dedication to disease prevention.

Free events featured during BHW included: a breastfeeding clinic for mothers, diabetes classes, a diabetes prevention workshop, nutrition classes, a flu shot clinic, healthy mom and baby expo, cancer awareness workshop, an HIV screening and awareness event, a grand opening event for the Amistad resource center outside of San Marcos, a resource fair for the Dove Springs community, a health literacy event for adult educators and a health literacy event for health professionals.



Pictured from left to right: Carlos Rivera, Annie Crawford, Representative Eddie Rodriguez, and Consul General Rosalba Ojeda.

Binational Health Week was recognized through proclamations presented by the City of Austin and the Travis County Commissioners Court. Many thanks to the generous sponsors who made our efforts possible this year:

Diamond Sponsor: LIVE Tobacco-Free Austin

Platinum Sponsors: Univision 62/Telefutera

Gold Sponsors: Superior HealthPlan, Amerigroup, LIVESTRONG

Silver Sponsor: St. David's HealthCare

2011-2012 Nursing Success Grant

Capital AHEC is proud to announce that we are entering the final year of the Nurse Success Grant. This grant has given Capital AHEC the opportunity to partner with Austin Community College to help educate students about the many opportunities available to them in the field of nursing.

Throughout this grant Capital AHEC has impacted 423 high school students within our service region through summer camps and nursing academies. The grant will conclude June 30, 2012.

This year Capital AHEC will again host 5 one-day nursing academies in Fredericksburg, Round Rock, San Marcos, Elgin, and Austin. The first academy was held Oct. 14 in Fredericksburg and a record high of 37 students participated in the program. This number has continually double each year of the program and we anticipate a similar growth for all future academies. Check out the dates of the upcoming academies on the right.

In addition to the academies, Capital AHEC will also offer 2 five-day, overnight summer camps. This experience will enable students to get an up close look at the nursing profession in order to make an educated decision about their future. The camps will be held at Texas State University and the University of Texas. Registration forms will be available in January 2012 for the camps. The dates for each camp are listed below. To learn more about the camps or our academies please visit the Capital AHEC website at www.capitalahec.org.

Nursing Careers Summer Camp
Texas State University
June 11-15

Nursing Careers Summer Camp
University of Texas
June 25-29

Upcoming Events

Northern Nursing Academy
October 28, 2011
Austin Community College, Round Rock

Southern Nursing Academy
December 9, 2011
Central Texas Medical Center, San Marcos

Eastern Nursing Academy
February 24, 2012
Elgin

For all upcoming events please visit the Capital AHEC website.

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