

# AHEC EXCHANGE

Quarterly Newsletter for Southern NH AHEC



## SNHAHEC Celebrates 25 Years

The 25th Anniversary Celebration started off with a bang with Akwaaba Traditional Africa Drum and Dance Ensemble sharing rhythm and dance.

Current AHEC staff greeted SNHAHEC staff alumni, community partners as well as community health worker (CHW) and interpreter trainees who joined in the celebration.

“I am incredibly proud of what our staff, past and present, have been able to accomplish to improve recruitment and retention of the health care workforce in NH”, shared Paula Smith, SNHAHEC Director.



Jodi Harper and Paula Smith with Tracie Homes and Florentina Dinu

## What is SNHAHEC up to?

- The NHTalkRadio’s show Your Health New Hampshire most recent episodes were on
  - AHEC Program Graduates
  - Diabetes Awareness Month
- The Fall 2023 Interpretation class held an in person Graduation to celebrate finishing the course.



## Mission Statement

The mission of Southern NH Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is to develop, promote, and coordinate community and academic multi-disciplinary partnerships for health professions education. We focus on under-served communities and provide education for students, practicing health professionals, and members of southern New Hampshire communities.



## SNHAHEC Celebrates 25 Years

Several individuals were recognized for their contribution over the years. Gene Harkless, Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Nursing, University of New Hampshire; Tina Kenyon, Faculty, NH Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency; and Jazmin Miranda, Equity Consultant were applauded for their commitment to SNHAHEC as members of the Local Advisory Board since the beginning of the AHEC program.



Tina Kenyon being recognized by Paula Smith

Stacy Allard, Anita Rozeff, and Tracie Holmes, all from Lamprey Health Care, were appreciated for their support of SNHAHEC staff, programming, and grants management. Florentina Dinu and Maria Reyes both retired in 2023 and were recognized for their respective contributions as the SNHAHEC Interpretation Program Coordinator and Faculty, and the Seacoast Public Health Network Continuum of Care Facilitator. SNHAHEC has trained over 1000 interpreters, 232 CHWs, and has more recently added 67 LNAs to the health care workforce through the NH Needs Caregivers Program. It has offered more than 252 self-management workshops, and 2,568 continuing education programs to more than 62,288 health professionals since its inception in 1998.

**“Building relationships and working with community partners has enabled us to reach more people through continuing education, health career awareness and pipeline programs, and self-management workshops, that all contribute to improving health in NH.”**

**-PAULA SMITH,  
SNHAHEC DIRECTOR**



25th Anniversary Attendees Jim Terrero (left) and Jason Bonilla (right)



## Community Health Workers and CHW ADVANCE!

What are Community Health Workers? Community Health Workers (CHWs) support members of their community by acting as a bridge between the community and the health care system. CHWs not only assist patients or clients in understanding and applying the information they are given but they also assist in communicating their needs. The bridge that is provided has been found to be successful for all parties involved.



Sindy Chown (left) and Sandra Osorio (right) at a CHW Connect meeting

CHW ADVANCE! is a program funded by the Health Resources & Services Administration to support CHW training programs in NH and Vermont. Southern NH AHEC partners with the Northern NH AHEC, the Southern Vermont AHEC, and the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability to operate this program, as well as a CHW Advisory Board. CHWs can receive free training and stipends for participating. In the first year of CHW Advance, sixty-five (65) individuals received training with 28 also receiving a stipend. In the fall 2023 (year 2) 38 individuals are enrolled in CHW ADVANCE, 32 in the Core Competency Training and 6 in CHW Upskilling. In 2024 we anticipate rolling out a Department of Labor registered CHW Apprenticeship Program

## Equity Leaders Fellowship

This year, the Equity Leaders Fellowship, a program that was developed by leaders of color for leaders of color in NH, is excited to introduce their 10th cohort (10 years going strong) - we are now meeting in person, with remote availability at Girls at Work in Manchester, NH! We are excited to have one of our biggest classes of 17 fellows, all from different industries, educational backgrounds, age, and geographical locations in NH.

Check out our fellow profiles on our website to learn more about them and follow us through our journey on LinkedIn!



ELF Cohort 10



Check back in March 2024 for the next edition of the AHEC Exchange